Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Further on Quadripartite Meeting in Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi To Contact Iraq

JN0401181891 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1717 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Informed Arab sources told our radio that the quadrilateral summit held in Misratah, Libya, yesterday, entrusted Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to resume contacts with Iraq to urge it to withdraw from Kuwait and solve the Gulf crisis peacefully. It was learned that the four leaders agreed to exert all efforts to stop any international schemes aimed at destroying Iraq's military power when war break out in the Gulf. The leaders also agreed to confront any Israeli schemes to occupy further Arab territories or detonate the situation in the Gulf. Cairo will hold contacts with the U.S. Administration to urge it to bring pressure to bear on Israel to stop these schemes, and rob the Israeli Government of the opportunity to exploit the crisis in the region.

The four leaders reiterated their rejection of the way Iraq responded to the recent appeal addressed by President Mubarak to President Saddam Husayn, calling on him to withdraw from Kuwait and adopt the peaceful option to solve the Gulf crisis.

It was learned that the resolutions of the quadrilateral summit will be discussed during the Egyptian, Syrian, and Saudi Arabian foreign ministers' meeting scheduled in Saudi Arabia. Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid is expected to present these results during the meeting and also during King Fahd's meeting with the ministers.

Summit Discussions Reviewed

JN0401210591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Dec 90

[Text] Arab and international political and diplomatic circles have demonstrated interest in the Quadrilateral Arab summit held in Misratah, Libya, yesterday, and which was attended by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and Sudanese leader Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir. This interest was caused by the importance these circles attach to the Arab position on the complex and serious Gulf crisis resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The four leaders held a meeting in Misratah yesterday that lasted two and a half hours. The meeting was preceded by a closed meeting between President Hafiz al-Asad and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, who were later joined by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' and Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

The four leaders discussed the serious situation in the Gulf, given the unity of Arab destiny, the leaders' eagerness to defend the Arab nation's basic interests, and the sense of pan-Arab responsibility that should be borne by all Arab officials in the current delicate and complex phase. The leaders tried to find a way out of the serious situation precipitated by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which has created serious instability in the Arab homeland's political and security situation and has exposed pan-Arab security to the most serious threats, especially in the Gulf.

The four leaders reviewed the results of the meeting held in Cairo the day before by the Syrian, Egyptian, and Libyan foreign ministers, during which they described the Iraqi deviation of Kuwait as a violation of Arab and international conventions and a violation of all the Iraqi Government's Arab and international pledges. The ministers voiced the three countries' rejection of Iraq's annexation of Kuwait, considering it null and void, and demanded the complete withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, because this is the only key to a peaceful solution that spares the region, especially Iraq, the woes of total destruction.

The four leaders discussed various aspects of the Gulf crisis and its Arab, regional, and international repercussions, and the various possibilities on the horizon. Viewpoints were in agreement on the need for efforts to protect pan-Arab interests and secure Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait in accordance with Arab and international resolutions.

Ministers Call for Full Withdrawal

JN0501134991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh—The first round of talks between Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, began in Riyadh at noon today.

During this session, they reviewed the situation in the region and the contacts under way in the Arab and international arenas to solve the Gulf crisis. Views were unanimous that the key to the solution lies in Iraq's full withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of the legitimate government in accordance with Arab and international resolutions.

They also discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question, as well as the continuing efforts of the three countries, along with the members of the Security Council, to attain a comprehensive, just solution to this issue after the Gulf crisis ends.

Saudi-Egyptian-Syrian Talks End in Riyadh

LD0601173491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1520 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Jan. (SPA)—Foreign ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Arab Republic of Egypt,

and the Syrian Arab Republic ended their fourth session of coordination and consultations in Riyadh today.

During the closing session of the meeting, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign affairs minister, read out the following news release:

Out of the belief in the one common Arab destiny, out of commitment to all Arab charters and stemming from the importance and need for continuous, periodic and organized consultations and coordinations to defend Arab and pan-Arab interests, foreign affairs ministers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Arab Republic of Egypt held meetings of the fourth session of coordination and consultations in Riyadh on 5-6 January 1991.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud Al Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, briefed His Excellency 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs; and His Excellency Faruq al-Shar', Syrian foreign minister, on the results of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Council meeting that convened in Doha and on the satisfaction and welcome of the GCC leaders regarding the improving coordination and cooperation with both Egypt and Syria, and their determination to bolster and consolidate this cooperation in various fields.

During their meetings, the foreign ministers discussed the serious situation resulting from the continuous Iraqi occupation of the state of Kuwait, and reviewed the latest developments in light of recent international contacts aimed at securing the full implementation of all Arab and UN Security Council resolutions concerning the Gulf crisis.

In this context, the foreign ministers welcomed the international efforts and contacts aimed at implementing the Arab and UN resolutions that call for the complete and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from the State of Kuwait, and the restoration of legitimacy to the latter.

They expressed the hope that these efforts will result in the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, and in sparing the peoples of the region, and the Iraqi people in particular, the dangers of the military option, and they affirmed that the Iraqi leadership would bear full responsibility for this if it failed to respond to the resolutions of UN legitimacy.

The foreign ministers also reviewed the press release issued by the EEC on 4 January 1991 concerning the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. The ministers welcomed the expected meeting between the Iraqi foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state in Geneva in 9 January 1991 because this meeting offers one last chance for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis—a complete and unconditional implementation of the resolutions of UN and Arab legitimacy.

They appreciated the EEC affirmation that it firmly stuck to carrying out all the UN Security Council resolutions in a complete and unconditional manner.

The foreign ministers reaffirmed the declared positions of their respective countries, rejecting any settlement based on a partial withdrawal from Kuwait or on rewarding the aggressor.

The ministers stressed that the Palestinian question is an inter-Arab problem, and responsibility for it is a pan-Arab responsibility that concerns all Arabs. They expressed their denunciation of the attempts of the Iraqi regime to exploit the question of Palestine to justify its invasion of Kuwait, when it drove out its people and hundreds of thousands of workers there, including Palestinians themselves.

The ministers expressed their rejection of the Iraqi regime's attempts to drag any side into negotiations on the region's problems and security. They did so because the Iraqi regime is not capable nor is it trustworthy to do so because of its adventurous policies and its invasion of Kuwait, which violate all international laws and norms as well as Arab and Islamic charters and values.

The ministers also stressed their countries' desire to resolve the current crisis in the Gulf region as soon as possible through the intensification of all Arab efforts to find a just, comprehensive, and permanent settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian cause in accordance with the UN resolutions that call for a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, and for enabling the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate and firm rights, including the establishment of their own state on their own national soil.

Within the framework of the current international efforts and contacts, the ministers met Mr. Loncar, the Yugoslav foreign minister, whose country is chairing the Non-Aligned Movement. They discussed with him ways of implementing the UN resolutions regarding the Gulf crisis and the role of the movement in this connection.

The foreign ministers agreed to hold the fifth session in the Syrian Arab Republic on a yet-undecided date.

Foreign Ministers Comment

NC0601184091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1745 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 6 Jan (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed his conviction that Iraq has not made any steps toward implementing the UN Security Council resolutions.

In statements following the meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia with the Yugoslav foreign minister here today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said this was his impression after the meeting. He described the Yugoslav foreign minister's briefing on the outcome of his visit to Baghdad as not encouraging.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' reiterated Syria's stand rejecting any partial withdrawal from Kuwait and calling for the full implementation of the Arab and international resolutions, which provide for the complete Iraqi withdrawal and the return of Kuwaiti legitimacy.

Al-Shar' pointed out that the foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia are making strenuous efforts to improve the Arab situation, rectify the serious imbalance caused by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and rebuild Arab solidarity.

Yugoslavian Talks Detailed

LD0601144191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1311 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 6 Jun (TANJUG)—The situation in the Gulf is very critical and war is possible. For this reason it is vital to seek a peaceful solution to the crisis caused by the Iraqi invasion. Likewise, it is vital that Yugoslvia, in its capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, continue the peace mission which the nonaligned countries entrusted to it with the aim of trying to prevent war and solve the crisis in a political way.

These were the conclusions reached in the course of today's meeting between three Arab foreign ministers—Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal of Saudi Arabia, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid of Egypt, and Faruq al-Shar' of Syria—with Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, who arrived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia last night for a two-day visit.

The meeting with Loncar, held on the initiative of the three Arab ministers, was exclusively devoted to the Gulf crisis. Al-Majid and al-Shar' also arrived in Riyadh yesterday.

The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria paid full tribute to Budimir Loncar and Yugoslavia for its "exceptionally active commitment" to the process of solving the Gulf crisis from the very beginning.

Loncar was also told that Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria have complete trust in the peace mission of Yugoslavia as the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. This is why they insisted on the continuation of the mission, bearing in mind the great danger of the outbreak of war.

At today's meeting in Riyadh—which stirred up a great deal of interest not only among the Saudi public but also among observers in the Gulf—the four ministers "fully" agreed that the Palestinian issue is the core of the Middle East crisis, but that it cannot be linked with or made conditional on the Gulf crisis. On the contrary, the ministers said that a chance for reviving the idea of convening an international conference on the Middle East should be sought through a peaceful denouement of the Gulf crisis.

As expected, the three Arab ministers expressed special interest in Loncar's recent visit to Baghdad and the talks he had there with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Holds Talks With Saddam on Gulf Crisis

LD0401180791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

During the meeting, they discussed the latest international, Arab and Palestinian political developments, the latest on the situation inside occupied Palestine, and ways of supporting the heroic Intifadah in order to consolidate the peoples' steadfastness, in the face of the increasing terrorism and oppression being pursued by the authorities of Zionist occupation.

They also discussed the latest Gulf crisis developments and the political efforts being deployed to spare the region from the dangers of war.

Fatah To Convene; PLO Leaders To Meet Saddam

JN0701084591 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jan 91 p 14

[Text] Amman—The Fatah Central Committee will convene in Baghdad tomorrow in the presence of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and all Fatah leaders.

A Palestinian source told AL-DUSTUR that the Fatah leaders will also meet with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and other Iraqi leaders to discuss the latest Gulf developments.

In the meantime, a major celebration marking the 26th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution will be held in Baghdad .

Palestinian Ambassador al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, and other Palestinian leaders currently visiting Amman will leave today.

Khalaf Discusses Arab Support, Gulf Crisis

JN0501101891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—Salah Khalaf (Abu-Iyad), member of the Fatah Central Committee and second in command of the PLO, has said that the first voice that will rise in Holy Jerusalem after the liberation of Palestine will be one calling for unity with Jordan, an eternal unbreakable unity.

In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Abu-Iyad declared that the Jordanian and Palestinian people are one people, and that the Palestinian people found no warm

bosom in the world but that of their Jordanian brothers. He stressed that the need to maintain and safeguard this unity, which is a trust assumed by us all.

Abu-Iyad said: We do not trust this international legitimacy that the United States talks about and which issued many resolutions on the Palestine question that have not been implemented. He added: If the United States wants peace, we should sit and discuss all problems of the region, headed by the Palestine question.

He said: The PLO and Jordan, along with the Arab states urging a political solution to the Gulf crisis, were the first to call for a solution sparing the region the vicissitudes of war. But, he said, what can we do about some Arabs who have always opposed a political solution and provided cover for the deployment of the foreign U.S.-Atlantic forces in the Arabian Peninsula?

Abu-Iyad stated that the Arab nation is prepared to wage a large battle. If they want it to be a peaceful battle, he said, then we are the first to advocate peace, and if they want war, we are prepared for that too. He added: We tell anyone who tries to intimidate the Arab nation that we are a people who do not fear war; we held fast in Beirut for 90 days under a brutal Israeli bombardment and, from the first air strike, never were scared. Some regimes have no guts, however, and their rulers are not man enough. From the first air strike, they were afraid and retreated.

Struggler Abu-Iyad asked: Where are the regimes that sold us slogans over the past 20 years and fought the PLO as reactionary? Where are they today? We have found that in the end, their slogans placed them under the banner of the United States in Saudi Arabia against Iraq. Thus, all their slogans have fallen.

Abu-Iyad added: As for us in the PLO, our options have always been in the interest of the entire Arab nation and the Arab people. Our options are genuine revolutionary options and our stand is decisive. We can never be in the Zionist-U.S. bloc.

On the PLO's financial hardship, Salah Khalaf said: They have suspended funds. They thought that the PLO would surrender because of the suspension of funds and aid to the intifadah. The answer of the people of the intifadah in Palestine was that they would rather starve than bargain over our national stance. Their response was that money is not everything, that dignity is much more important than money, and that Arab and Palestinian blood is more precious than oil.

He said in the Gulf they are threatening to expel Palestinians and further cut aid. Once again we tell them that money is not everything. It is true that revolutions need aid, but we do not bargain and will never bargain over our pan-Arab stands dictated on us by our steadfast people. He asked: What is money worth if the homeland is threatened? Has money been useful to those whose arms have been broken, women miscarried, and children killed daily in sight and hearing of the entire world and in front of the slaves of gold and silver? Of what use can oil be for the images that we see daily?

He continued: Yes, we are suffering a difficult financial situation as a result of the Gulf crisis, but we are not alone. In Sudan, over a million children are facing death. Sudan adopts the right course, however. We also know how much the Jordanian people suffered and the price Jordan paid for its nationalist, pan-Arab stand. I am confident that this stand of His Majesty King Husayn, the Jordanian Government, and the great Jordanian peoplewill be remembered. We tell everybody that this suffering, no matter how severe, can never affect the stands of honorable men in this glorious nation.

Abu-Iyad said that if war broke out Iraq would not be alone, but rather the entire Arab nation would be in the same trench with Iraq. The Egyptian and Syrian people would side with Iraq. All Arab nations would side with Iraq to face the U.S.-Atlantic onslaught. There is a path for peace if the United States wants to pursue it. It lies in responding to the Iraqi call and the Iraqi president's 12 August initiative.

He said: They think that war will be on the land of Iraq only, but I tell them that they are very mistaken because the operation theater will be comprehensive, not limited to Kuwait or Iraq.

He stressed that, if war breaks out, they will try to attack Jordan through the Zionist enemy, thus hoping to make their dreams of immigration, transfer, and expansion come true. I say that they are also mistaken. If they attempt to harm this country, everyone will face and confront them: Jordanians, Palestinians, and all noble sons of the Arab nation.

Stressing that he is proud of the national unity within the PLO, Salah Khalaf said: We have always extended our open hand to our brothers in the Islamic movement to be with us in the PLO. We always welcome the hand that carries arms at our side in martyrdom for the sake of God and the homeland, or any piece of weaponry that can be used under our control. We tell them that now is not the time for alternative factions or for distinguishing between one faction and another; it is time for unity to face the malicious Zionist enemy that has mercy on no one, does not distinguish between Muslim or Christian, or among Muslims. National unity is our internal motto. If we are sincere concerning the intifadah of the stones and the people of the stones, we must direct and strengthen this unity, and stress that there can be no victory except through this beginning: the beginning of national unity.

On establishing the Palestinian state in Gaza, Abu-Iyad said: This is rejected. We tell them that we accept nothing other than Jerusalem as the capital of the independent Palestinian state.

Abu-Iyad said: We ask God to make Iraq victorious only because it represents the conscience of the Arab and Islamic nation.

He added: We should not be defeatists in this battle. We must all bear its consequences, which, God willing, will favor the Arab nation.

The member of the Fatah Movement Central Committee stressed that belief in God and in the homeland, the masses' will, and the justice of the cause determine the outcome of the battle, not technology and development. Israel's military power, which attacked Beirut in 1982, was unable for 90 days to defeat Philip Habib, then returned with him, the revolution resisted and confronted the aggression. [sentence as published]

Concluding the interview, Abu-Iyad stressed that the Palestinian intifadah will continue, and that the PLO will consecrate all its capabilities to support its people of the uprising in occupied Palestine until the Palestinian flag is raised in Jerusalem, the capital of the independent Palestinian state.

Stresses Fatah Leadership Role

LD0501094191 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 2 JAN 91

[Text] Brother Abu-Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, said that Fatah is a message of the entire Palestinian people, movement, and national leadership and that it will remain this way because it is the guardian of national unity [words indistinct] he added [words indistinct] revolution and a direction which expresses the will of the Palestinian people and the will of the Arab nation.

Abu-Iyad made these statements during the central mass ceremony [al-'ihtifal al-jamahiri al-markazi] given by the embassy of the state of Palestine in Amman and attended by over 4,000 people, who chanted slogans for Palestine, the revolution, the intifadah, and national unity.

Says Supporting Iraq 'an Honor'

JN0501085591 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] Brother Abu-Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committe, has declared that the heroic Palestinian people support fraternal Iraq in its confrontation of the U.S. aggression. In a speech in Amman on the 23d anniversary of the Palestinian revolution, the anniversary of the Fatah Movement, Abu-Iyad said: It is an honor for the Palestinian revolution to stand at Iraq's side in case war breaks out. He added that this is a one-time opportunity for the Arab nation and that defending Iraq is like defending Palestine. He said: It is an honor for us to support Iraq because it [words indistinct]. Brother Abu-Iyad accused Israel [words indistinct] Iraq destroyed.

He stated that Iraqis do not fear Western weapons, and those who think that the battlefield will be Baghdad are mistaken. If war breaks out, it will have [words indistinct] Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Brother Abu-Iyad criticized Egypt and the Gulf oil countries, stating they wanted to starve the Palestinians and Jordanians because they favored a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Qaddumi Threatens United States on Gulf War

JN0401204791 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1939 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has warned the United States of the consequences of igniting war in the Arabian Gulf, declaring that hell would break loose against U.S. and Western presence in the region. Qaddumi urged Europe to consider carefully and not allow itself to be dragged behind the United States.

In a symposium for Palestinian revolution activists in Tunis yesterday, Abu-al-Lutf said that as Arabs we want peace, but the kind of peace that ensures rights, dignity, and freedom. If we we are left with no other choice, he added, we would fight with all our might to defend the dignity and pride of the Arab nation.

He emphasized that Iraq is now striving to advance independent Arab decisionmaking, the age of liberation has begun, and that Palestine will remain the central idea underlying every creative, constructive Arab action.

Qaddumi, UN's de Marco Discuss Territories

Highlight Zionist Bestiality

JN0701095391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Jan 91 pp 1, 13

[By 'Abdallah al-Qaq]

[Text] Amman—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has described his talks with Guido de Marco, president of the UN General Assembly, last night as "positive and extremely useful talks which dealt with all outstanding issues pertaining to the Palestinian situation and the results of the visit to the occupied Arab territories by the most senior UN official."

Speaking to AL-DUSTUR, he added that the meeting was good and dealt with Guido de Marco's impressions and observations in the occupied territories. De Marco, he said, also presented a comprehensive view of our people's suffering in the occupied territories and stressed the need to translate the UN resolutions into practice so that the international institutions can play their role in ending our people's suffering from the Zionist enemy's inhuman and even bestial practices.

Qaddumi added: The UN General Assembly president noted the difficulties he faced during his visit and said he will work in a spirit of justice and humanity to achieve peace and justice and to fulfill our and the international community's aspiration for a Palestinian state.

Asked if the organization will call for a UN Security Council meeting to put an end to the Zionist authorities' escalation against the unarmed Palestinian people, Abu-al-Lutf said: We will not hesitate to take all that is necessary to protect our people. All international institutions should move and stop the hostile and bestial practices against them and enable them to determine their future and establish the independent Palestinian state.

Qaddumi said the visit was useful because it was the first by a UN General Assembly president to the occupied territories—a visit which revealed to him many facts which he will present to the international community with the aim of ending the oppression and bloodshed to which our people in the occupied Arab territories are being exposed.

Guido de Marco emphasized to AL-DUSTUR that his talks with Faruq Qaddumi were fruitful. We, he said, exchanged talk on the various issues related to the Palestinian situation and the results of my visit to the occupied Arab territories. He added: We are seeking to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians and implement the UN resolutions in general. He stressed that these talks will contribute to boosting a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region.

He expressed his appreciation of the positive spirit and the large understanding he is receiving from the PLO and said: The organization is playing an effective role for the sake of establishing peace in the region and it is a direct party to this. He described Qaddumi as a proficient diplomat who seeks to resolve the Palestinian issue and establish peace in the region in general.

Guido de Marco and Qaddumi met on the sidelines of a working dinner hosted by Dr. 'Ali 'Atiqah, director of the UN office in Amman, in the presence of Palestinian Ambassador to Jordan al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim and senior officials accompanying the UN General Assembly president.

Qaddumi arrived in Amman at 1900 yesterday on a brief visit. He will leave for Baghdad today to attend the Fatah Central Committee meeting.

Vauzelle Rules Out Meeting With Yasir 'Arafat

LD0601174591 Paris Domestic Service in French 1600 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Michel Vauzelle, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the National Assembly, has made a technical stop-over in Tunis during which he ruled out a meeting with the PLO head, Yasir 'Arafat. Michel Vauzelle arrived in the Tunisian capital from Amman at 1500 at the end of an exploratory visit to Iraq concerning the Gulf crisis. Asked to say if he was still neither optimistic nor pessimistic about the outcome of this crisis, the former spokesman for Francois Mitterrand was content with stressing that that was something one could not say now. Michel Vauzelle returns to Paris this evening.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Welcomes Iraqi-U.S. Dialogue

NC0401194391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—Egypt has welcomed the Iraqi-U.S. dialogue scheduled to be held in Switzerland. Egypt hoped this dialogue will lead to the implementation of the Security Council resolutions, which call for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi troops from Kuwaiti territory and the restoration of the legitimate government as it was on 1 August.

Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, expressed Egypt's welcome in a statement he made this evening. He stressed that Egyptian diplomacy has always sought to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis to spare the region from the danger of war.

Interviewed on Talks

LD0501103591 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Interview with Butrus Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, by (Claude Cyrill); place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] The Misratah summit in Libya that ended on 4 January yielded no tangible results. [passage omitted] (Claude Cyrill) wanted to test the feelings of the Egyptians who have the same stand as the Americans about this crisis. He interviewed Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

[Ghali] One of the objectives of Egyptian foreign policy has always been to safeguard peace. The negotiations that will start in Geneva on 9 January between representatives of the United States and Iraq certainly represent a positive element.

[(Cyrill)] Do you think that mutual concessions are needed?

[Ghali] No. These are negotiations with a legitimate character taking place within the framework of resolutions adopted by the international community, so there can be no concessions regarding these resolutions. It is a question of an unconditional and total withdrawal.

[(Cyrill)] Can you imagine as Iraq wants, the international community accepting a link being established among the Iraqi issue and other Middle East issues?

[Ghali] I think that such a link would run counter to the UN Security Council resolutions which demand an unconditional withdrawal. Such a link would mean setting new conditions. This being said, once the withdrawal is accomplished, we will be the first to ask for the implementation of the principles of this withdrawal regarding other Middle East problems, in particular the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the Arab territories occupied since June 1967.

[Announcer] This is the Egyptian stand.

Ghali, Soviet Envoy on Crisis, Future Arab Order

NC0501202291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that he expects the problems that would result from a settlement of the Gulf crisis to be much worse than the crisis itself, regardless of whether the expected settlement is a peaceful or military one.

In a speech today to the seminar on the Gulf crisis organized by the Egyptian committee of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization, Dr. Ghali called for setting up a new order for joint Arab defense that orginates from the region and with UN participation if necessary. He also called for an Arab economic plan similar to the Marshall Plan to be financed by the Arab countries that have excess resources through a neutral Arab fund or bank that would contribute to the development of the poorer Arab countries.

Dr. Ghali said that the Middle East needs more democratic systems within the framework of an Arab parliament similar to the European Parliament. He added: We must begin thinking about how to build a new Arab society that takes into account the end of the Cold War and the emergence of a new role for the United Nations as an international executive organ through which Third World countries could play a role in drawing up their future.

Dr. Ghali stressed that Egypt is committed to a solution for the Palestinian problem and noted that the Egyptian leadership has never abandoned this cause. He said that the current international situation could constitute the start of a new effort to resolve the Palestinian problem.

Soviet ambassador in Cairo Vladimir Polyakov underlined his country's support for the Security Council resolutions to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. He said that the Soviet Union has been making contacts since the start of the crisis in order to reach a peaceful settlement, noting his country's rejection of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and its demand for Iraq's withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy.

Ambassador Polyakov said that the Iraqi leadership miscalculated the Soviet stand when it planned the invasion of Kuwait. He added that this was the Iraqi leadership's biggest mistake. He also said that the Soviet Union has halted all dealings with Iraq following the latter's aggression against Kuwait even though the volume of the two countries' economic and military trade has reached 15 billion rubles. He added that the

Soviet Union has also halted Soviet military supplies to Iraq even though they were paid in full and in advance.

He expressed the Soviet Union's support for the coming meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz in Geneva on 9 January and stressed that the Soviet Union will continue its efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Polyakov also expressed the Soviet Union's support for Dr. Butrus Ghali's idea to set up a new Arab security order and noted that this depends on the countries in the region. He added that it is important that this new Arab security order should ensure stability in the Middle East.

Polyakov expressed his belief that this new Arab security order must be based on several important principles, the most important of which are:
—the non-use of force;
—a halt to the arms race in the region;
—sufficient defense capability for the countries of the Arab region; and
—keeping the weapons of mass destruction away from the region.

He stressed his country's support for President Husni Mubarak's proposal to turn the Middle East into a nuclear and chemical weapon-free zone.

Ambassador Polyakov concluded his speech to the seminar by stressing the importance of finding a solution to the regional conflicts in the area, including the Arab-Israeli one, and of making efforts to let the Middle East live in peace and stability with the support and cooperation of all the Arab countries.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Saudi Arabia

NC0401174491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Saudi Arabia this evening to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia.

In a predeparture statement, 'Abd-al-Majid said that this meeting is a continuation of the consultations and contacts between the three foreign ministers. These consultations and contacts have proven their effectiveness and importance with regard to the exchange of information and coordination among the three states on current issues, especially the Gulf crisis. He said that Egypt considers these consultations important because they serve the national interest and strengthen the Arab stand on the international level.

'Abd-al-Majid said that he will brief Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal on the latest contacts undertaken by Egypt. He will also learn the Saudi viewpoint on the issues under discussion.

'Abd-al-Majid said that the Misratah meeting was important, useful, and necessary at this stage, and that it achieved its desired aim. He said that these meetings are held to exchange views and consult on several matters confronting us.

On the approach of the 15 January deadline set by the UN Security Council for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, 'Abd-al-Majid said that there is a possibility of a U.S.-Iraqi meeting in Geneva before that date. Egypt welcomes this meeting and hopes it will be held because it supports dialogue.

'Abd-al-Majid praised the European efforts in this connection, saying they aim to spare the region from the perils of war. He said that Europe is playing a positive role and that there is no contradiction between this role and any U.S. effort.

Ambassador To Iraq Leaves To Assume New Post

NC0401165591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Jan (MENA)—Ambassador al-Sayyid Abu-Zayd, Egypt's ambassador in Baghdad, left Cairo this morning for Amman on his way to the Iraqi capital to assume his post.

Europeans Seeking Meeting as 'Last-Ditch Effort'

JN0401164891 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Jan 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Last-Ditch Attempt"]

[Text] With the 15 January deadline drawing closer, feverish efforts intensify in a desperate attempt to avert war.

The EC group is mounting a fresh effort to achieve a breakthrough. In the meantime, the military buildup on both sides—from Turkey to Saudi Arabia—is approaching a point where a misstep by either side carries the potential of a terrible catastrophe.

The Europeans may have acted rather belatedly, after Iraq had slammed the door against any high-level meetings with the United States. Although the Europeans refused to see Iraq's Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz before he had met with President Bush, they are now seeking a meeting as a last-ditch effort in the countdown to zero hour.

But there are obstacles to be surmounted before this effort can bear fruit. When they meet tomorrow, the EC foreign ministers will have to agree on a plan and present it as a package deal to Iraq. This should call for an Iraqi withdrawal and the implementation of all UN Security Council resolutions subject to expanded talks getting under way after—rather than before or during—the pullout of Iraq from Kuwait in order to address the whole range of Middle East issues. These include the Palestinian problem, border inviolability, armament levels, a security arrangement system, deployment of UN forces—all open-ended questions that may take

years and years to work out, assuming that all the parties concerned will first have come to an agreement on the framework of the talks and the procedures for convening them.

Such a scenario does not seem to recommend itself to Saddam Husayn, since it fails to satisfy his demand that all the issues, including the Gulf question, be addressed simultaneously rather than after the withdrawal. However, even if he did accept this offer in principle, he would presumably exploit it for propaganda purposes and continue to insist on the Gulf crisis being an item on the agenda of the proposed talks. Such an attitude would be tantamount to another delaying tactic to save him from the sword of 15 January.

Egypt Air Denies Suspension of Gulf Area Flights

NC0601180291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—A responsible source from Egypt Air Corporation today dismissed rumors about the corporation's intention to suspend its flights to the Gulf region as of 10 January, in anticipation of the outbreak of war.

The source stressed that Egypt Air flights to the Gulf region are proceeding as scheduled, except for two flights, namely to Kuwait and Baghdad, which have been suspended since the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

Cairo Airport Director Denies Closure of Airspace

NC0601151891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1422 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Major General Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Badr, director of Cairo Airport Authority, has denied reports that Cairo airport or Egyptian airspace will be closed as of Thursday [10 January] because of the Gulf crisis.

Maj. Gen. Badr said that no international airline company has notified Cairo airport that it is stopping or adjusting its flight schedule as of Thursday.

Paper Alleges U.S. Planning 'Surprise' Strike

JN0401164691 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Jan 91 p 7

[Editorial: "The Omens of War"]

[Text] The tone of threats exchanged between the parties to the Gulf crisis has escalated with the new year and the approach of the Security Council's end of term. Now, every day that passes carries with it greater tension, worry, and expectations of explosion.

Simply put, Iraq has scratched out any hope of the possibility of a detente in the crisis before 15 January, or even after it. This was announced by the minister of information and the ruling leadership council when they said that Iraq will never withdraw from Kuwait, not before the set period nor after, and not even 10 years later after Kuwait has become the eternal 19th governorate of Iraq.

It has been noticed that the violent statements exchanged by both sides are accelerating toward war and the tone of peaceful solutions has disappeared and been replaced by "desires", "wills", or "determinations" to wage military operations since both sides are sticking to their demands and policies. Therefore, it seems that plans for joint U.S.-Iraqi meetings, the efforts of the international community with its organizations and groupings, and the mediation efforts of influential personalities have been trampled underfoot. There remains nothing on the horizon other than the approaching omens of danger and destruction. Even the European countries, which were hesitant, seem to have taken their final decision at last to send troops from NATO, particularly war planes, to Turkey to open up a second front to the north of Iraq.

Since 15 January now represents a grave day in the history of the world, and despite what President Bush has said about his determination to start military action on that day without postponement irrespective of the results, fixing this date in particular undermines a principle that was previously advanced by U.S. officials, namely to use force in a massive, sudden, and decisive way. This strengthens the belief that operations might start before that day so as to come as a surprise, to fall in with the tactics of deception and camouflage, and above all, to go along with the war fever that seems to have taken control of everyone without any success in attempts to calm it down.

The latest brainwave in the tactics of deception is Bush's statement that he has a gut feeling Saddam will withdraw despite everything, even if that makes him lose his ruling grip on Iraq. This kind of talk lures Saddam more into staying than withdrawing so that the American side alone can decide the hour for making him leave by force.

AL-AHRAM Views Arabs 'Shouting' Against War

NC0401161991 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 4 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] An AL-AHRAM editorial under the headline "Those Shouting Against the War Option" wonders about those in the Arab world who keep shouting no to war without ever daring to come out and say publicly and clearly who they believe is responsible for pushing things to this dangerous precipice at the brink of war and a destructive confrontation.

The paper asks: Why do these shouters not cry out to the ruler of Iraq and demand he return to reason if they are truly eager to spare the region the dangers of war?

AL-AHRAM emphasizes that the Arab world has become fed up with these twisted methods that some are using to hide their real nature and to conceal their positions on the crisis by rallying around some slogans.

Somali Ambassador Requests Aid; Mogadishu 'Calm'

NC0501181591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Jan (MENA)—Somalia has requested aid and foodstuffs from Egypt to avoid the danger of famine. Somali Ambassador in Cairo 'Abdallah Hasan [name and title as received] said this, adding that he submitted a request to this effect to Egypt today. On developments in Mogadishu, he said that the situation is now calm and is returning to normal in the capital. He denied that any government or public sector building or establishment have been destroyed or taken over.

He said that currently there are only those whom he described as "certain highwaymen looting" and that the police are hunting them down. He stressed that Somali Airlines currently operates regular flights. He noted that President Siad Barre met with the Italian ambassador to Somalia at the Presidential Palace in Mogadishu last night.

Says Barre Still in Mogadishu

NC0601141691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1257 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Somali Ambassador to Cairo 'Abdallah Hasan says that Somali President Siad Barre has not left the Somali capital, Mogadishu, and is still conducting his work as usual in Somalia. Reports that say Barre has left the Somali capital are totally groundless, Hasan said.

The Somali ambassador said that a Somali officer has fled the country to Nairobi, along with a group of women and children, in a Somali military plane.

Egyptians To Return Home

NC0601163891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1609 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Jan (MENA)—Egypt has made the necessary arrangements Egyptians to return from Somalia. A responsible Foreign Ministry source said the ministry is in constant contact with the Egyptian Embassy in Mogadishu to ensure the return of the Egyptians. An Egyptian airplane is due in Mogadishu tomorrow, Monday, to fly the Egyptian back to Cairo.

MENA has learned that a number of Egyptian and Saudi nationals in Somalia arrived in Jeddah yesterday in accordance with an agreement concluded between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The Egyptians will be flown to Cairo at a later date.

Libyan Official Discusses Cooperation With Egypt

PM0401102091 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 4 Jan 91 p 22

[Interview with Muhammad Mahmud al-Hijazi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Cooperation With Egypt, by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given: "Minister for Libyan-Egyptian Cooperation Muhammad Mahmud Al-Hijazi Tells AL-HAWADITH: Egyptian Affairs Ministry Will Become Ministry Of Unity In The Future!"]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] The recently formed Libyan ministry probably has no equivalent in any of the Arab states in terms of its formation. We mean the existence of a ministry for cooperation with Egypt, another for cooperation with Sudan, and a third for cooperation with the Maghreb Union states. If we concentrate on Egypt, what is the significance of this specialization?

[Al-Hijazi] The Egyptian Affairs Ministry included in the recent Cabinet formation will in the future become a ministry for unity. Its present task is to follow up cooperation and integration between the two countries in pursuit of complete unity. Since its establishment it has rapidly drafted a number of agreements on integration between the two countries. These agreements came about within the framework of the meetings of the two countries' leaders— Libyan revolution leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Husni Mubarak—in Marsa Matruh, Tobruk, and Surt. In fact since the establishment of the secretariat (ministry)—and that was not long ago—with God's help and within the context of the desire for integration and cooperation, it has been agreed to conclude 10 accords. This is a step on the road of integration toward our goal: unity between the two countries. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] But do you not believe that the difference between the economic systems could hamper the integration process between the two countries?

[Al-Hijazi] I do not think so. Free trade exists in Libya, as it does in Egypt. Individuals, establishments, distributors, and traders can all take part. Even at the political level I do not think that it will affect the economic integration experiment. We want there to be political integration too, especially since we have allowed all the Arabs to participate in the people's congresses, which have the authority and are the important elements through which higher party positions can be attained. The proof of this is that Dr. Amin Hilmi, an Egyptian national, has become secretary (minister) of light industries. And there are other Arabs who are secretaries in the municipalities and the People's Committees. We would like Libyans to be allowed to join the ruling National [Democratic] Party. That is our wish, the aim being to enrich the political experiment. That would bolster and support it and act as an instrument for the realization of economic and political integration.

['Ajjaj] But the problem of the remittances of the Egyptians who worked in Libya before the estrangement between the countries in the mid-seventies has still not been resolved.

[Al-Hijazi] Measures have been taken to settle that problem. Details of the settlement have been agreed and are approaching completion. There are technical committees whose task is to study each party's commitments. They will complete their work soon.

['Ajjaj] Despite the short time since relations were restored, are you satisfied with what is being achieved?

[Al-Hijazi] We are indeed completely satisfied when we see a transition, an extraordinary economic activity, and a flow of food products and clothes. There are materials required in Egypt such as steel and cement. And there is cooperation among individuals and companies. Some 6,000 people enter and leave via the land borders alone. This is in addition to those who travel via airports and seaports. We hope that we can translate the level of understanding and cooperation between officials into a tangible reality for the masses in both countries.

Editorial Views Tripartite Summit, Other Meetings

JN0501173891 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Jan 91 p 6

[Editorial: "The Decisive Moments"]

[Text] The tripartite Arab summit between Egypt, Syria, and Libya represents the first significant picture of intensive Arab action in the decisive moments of the new year to achieve a noble objective—sparing the region a devastating war whose signs are reemerging on the horizon.

Undoubtedly, it is very important to determine the stands here if we are to link events and actions. True, it is neither necessary nor inevitable for war to start on 15 January, the deadline set by the international community for the Iraqi regime to submit to international legitimacy and withdraw from the land of Kuwait. However, after that date, war is possible at any moment to settle the situation—a war that will have military and political consequences which may last for long time to come.

The recent peace appeal by President Husni Mubarak to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn appears on the newsreel. That appeal came to put the decision of peace in its proper place as a courageous choice that protects Arab interests as well as Iraq's, and gives life to Arab solidarity. On the Arab level, there is also the coordination meeting among Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria which is being prepared in Jeddah—a coordination that reflects sincere and constant efforts in various directions to give every possible opportunity for the achievement of the peaceful solution.

On the international level there is an important meeting between the Luxembourg foreign minister, who is also the chairman of the European Community, with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. Egypt hopes the meeting will contribute in the same direction. This meeting may pave the way for an Iraqi-U.S. dialogue, which news reports raised some optimism about. The degree of optimism declined, though, when the two parties differed on the dates for the meeting. Also, there is James Baker's tour in the Middle East which was described as a decisive tour devoted, of course, to the developments in the Gulf crisis.

The year 1991 has arrived with the Gulf crisis hovering over all Christmas dinners and meetings all around the world and on various levels. But this sincere Egyptian and Arab determination, and the management of the crisis with this selfless patience and constant efforts, makes us hopeful that the crisis will ease off, despite the dark clouds that predominate it now.

Libya

Summit Discussions Termed 'Successful'

LD0401121491 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] JANA has learned that the discussions held at the mini-Arab summit which took place in Misratah, at the invitation of the brother leader of the revolution, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and in which Presidents Husni Mubarak, Hafiz al-Asad, and 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir participated, were successful. The dialogue that took place was serious and in depth and was characterized by a spirit of historical responsibility. It focused on the results of the Kuwait crisis, its impact on Arab reality, and ways of facing up to them [the results of crisis].

Editor Assails Bush Decision To Extend Sanctions

LD0401205791 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] It was announced in Washington yesterday that U.S. President George Bush has extended what he calls economic sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah. News agencies have reported that Bush asserted, in a message to the U.S. Congress, that Libyan policies continue to represent a threat to America's national security and to American foreign national interests.

JANA's international affairs editor has stressed that the Libyan Arab people do not give any importance to such behavior by the American Administration and they continue to push ahead with building and realizing colossal achievements, like the 20th century miracle: the great man-made river, steel plants, huge electricity and water plants, populating the desert and making it green—the symbol of civilization that is being shown to the world every day.

The editor pointed out, in his comments on Bush's decision, that the Great Jamahiriyah, which has repeatedly ridiculed such American economic measures, is firmly determined to realize comprehensive Arab unity with all Arab brothers and strategic projects which will soon allow us, the Arabs, to impose real economic sanctions on America, which is trying to hinder any progress on Arab soil.

'Unjustified' U.S. Claims Denied

LD0601212291 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] U.S. President Bush has extended for the fifth time the mandate of economic sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah basing his decision on flimsy claims to justify the aggressive U.S. policy toward Libya.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, according to the firm stand of the Great Jamahiriyah vis-a-vis the question of terrorism, categorically denies the unjustified claims of the U.S. decision and affirms the following:

—How can the United States accuse the Great Jamahiriyah of terrorism and speak of it while taking Libyan POW's from another country and asking them forcibly to practice terrorism against their own country? This is evidence before the world that the United States practices terrorism in its strongest form. If the United States claims that Libya is practicing terrorism, let her produce evidence to prove this allegation.

—Libya will deal with the United States in kind in order to check unjustified claims and to protect the rights of her nationals.

Foreign Liaison Committee Statement

LD0701100591 Tripoli JANA in English 0842 GMT 7 Jan 91

["The People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Releases a Communique on the Decision Made by Bush on Reimposing Sanctions Against Libya"—JANA headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Annar [9 January] 7, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The US President Bush has extended the decision on imposing compulsory economic sanctions against great Jamahiriyah for the fifth time relying in this on a [word indistinct] flimsy allegations to justify the aggressive US policy against Libya.

The People's committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation, in accordance with the constant stance assumed by great Jamahiriyah in relation to the question of 'terrorism' disclaims categorically the baseless allegations stipulated in the US decision. It stresses the following points:

First: How come that the US accuses great Jamahiriyah and speaks of it while it seizes Libyan prisoners of war stationed in another country demanding of them to promote terrorism against their own country by force. This represents proof before the world at large that it is the US that practises terrorism in its worst forms.

Second: Should the US allege that Libya practises terrorism, it should put forward evidence supporting this allegation. Great Jamahiriyah, while assuming the position of defending the rights of its nationals refuting the baseless allegations against it, will mistreat the US likewise.

Third: The world at large doesn't any longer need such lies and allegations repeated by the US Administration to discover that it is pursuing a hostile and unjust policy against great Jamahiriyah. As part of this policy, the US has repeatedly extended the imposition of compulsory economic sanctions against Libyan and against all the peoples that reject being subjugated to its policy.

Fourth: Great Jamahkiriyah is strong by the principles it defends and by its being a member of the Arab nation strengthened by its Arab surroundings setting its efforts to build Arab unity and the strength of the nation standing alongside the causes of justice, right and freedom. [sentence as received] Should [there be] a dispute with the US on these questions, then the decision to extend the compulsory economic sanctions against the Libyan Arab people is in reality a medal of honour reimforcing the Pan-Arab role of great Jamahiriyah. This role is undoubtedly appreciated by all free men the world over.

Sudan

Intellectuals Urge Arabs 'To Stand Beside Iraq'

EA0601091991 Khartoum SUNA in English 1023 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Janury (SUNA)—A nationalist intellectual group affirmed here Friday that the U.S.-led military build-up in the Gulf region aimed at devastating the mental and psychological potentiality of the Arab and Muslim nation. The group, in a statement it issued yesterday, called on the Arab and Muslim leaders and peoples to stand beside Iraq in the face of the anticipated agression against it. The group, which comprised artists, fine arts lecturers, poets, fictionists and others also called on the Arab and Islamic leaders to release a collective Arab Islamic resolution that affirms adhesion with Iraq.

Bahrain

Danish Defense Minister Meets Premier, Leaves

NC0701123091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Manama, 7 Jan (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah today received Danish Defense Minister Knud Enggaard and his accompanying delegation, who are now visiting Bahrain. They reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf crisis and the international efforts exerted to implement the Security Council resolutions to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and to restore legitimacy there.

His highness the prime minister praised the Danish position in support of the right and legitimacy and its contribution to the international consensus that seeks to implement the Security Council resolutions. His highness also paid tribute to the good bilateral relations between Bahrain and Denmark in all fields.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Khalifah Al Khalifah, Defense Minister Staff Major General Khalifah Bin Ahmad Al Khalifah, and Knud Findup [name as received], Denmark's consul in Bahrain. [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT on 7 January also reports in a Manama-datelined item, "Danish Defense Minister Knud Enggaard left Manama today after a visit to Bahrain. Staff Major General Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, Bahraini defense minister and deputy commander in chief, met with Enggarrd earlier today. During the meeting, they discussed the developments in the Gulf crisis resulting from the continued Iraqi occupation of the State of Kuwait and reviewed bilateral relations and issues of common interest."]

Kuwait

UK Envoy Denies Secret Iraqi Talks, Deals

LD0401185591 London KUNA in Arabic 1815 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] London, 4 Jan (KUNA)—Ghazi al-Rayyis, Kuwaiti ambassador to the United Kingdom, today strongly denied reports alleging that Kuwait would make concessions or [words indistinct] to the aggressor. In an interview broadcast by the BBC Home Service, he said "I confirm that we will not make any concessions or [word indistinct] to the aggressor." The ambassador also strongly denied "the existence of secret negotiations with Iraq," as is claimed by some French press reports. The ambassador said "I confirm that there are absolutely no secret negotiations, concessions or deals." In reply to a question on the latest U.S. initiative, he said that he welcomes any initiative which leads to the total Iraqi withdrawal from all Kuwaiti territories, and Iraq's acceptance of all UN resolutions. The Kuwaiti ambassador confirmed that "this is the last chance before Saddam Husayn for a peaceful withdrawal from Kuwait." He said "the time for peaceful opportunities has ended: They were given every scope, but Saddam Husayn and his regime reject them all [words indistinct]."

UK Prime Minister Visits, Meets With Premier

LD0701110291 London KUNA in Arabic 1002 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 7 Jan (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdullah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, conferred here today with British Prime Minister John Major, [words indistinct] Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad, minister of state for foreign affairs; Charles Boyle, [words indistinct] to the prime minister; [name indistinct], the press secretary; and Michael Weston, British ambassador to Kuwait. [passage indistinct] British Prime Minister John Major emphasized his commitment to the need for the invading Iraqi forces to withdraw from Kuwait [word indistinct] the aggressor for his aggression. [passage indistinct] because of what is happening every day in the detention camps in the hands of the Iraqi authorities. This has been confirmed and is clearly significant.

He added that he was explicit with the amir on his complete support for the UN Security Council resolution and the alliance's commitment to the unconditional withdrawal of Iraqi forces. He said the Iraqi regime is not profitting from this occupation even with negotiations. [words indistinct] the efforts necessary for its reconstruction whether it is literated peacefully or through war. He expressed [words indistinct] with the results of his talks with the amir and heir apparent when it was possible to exchange views [word indistinct]

Discuss Gulf Developments

LD0701110391 London KUNA in Arabic 0944 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 7 Jan (KUNA)—Shaykh Jabir, His Highness the amir of Kuwait, received British Prime Minister John Major and the accompanying delegation. They discussed relations between the two friendly countries as well as the means to consolidate them for the benefit of their peoples. They also discussed the latest developments in the Gulf arena in light of the UN Security Council resolution [words indistinct] from the Kuwaiti territories without any conditions. [passage indistinct] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir; 'Abd-Al-Rahman Salim al-Utayqi, the amir's advisor; [words indistinct] and Michael Weston.

SFRY's Loncar Meets Leaders in Saudi Arabia

Discusses Peace Talks

LD0401192391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1732 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 4 Jan (TANJUG)—This evening, in the Saudi city of Al-Ta'if, Kuwait's Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah Ahmad received Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, who arrived in Saudi Arabia today. He has just started the third round of peace talks with the aim of finding a political solution to the Gulf crisis.

The Yugoslav foreign minister briefed the Kuwaiti sovereign on the results of his peace mission, which nonaligned countries have entrusted to Yugoslavia as the chairman of the movement. Loncar also spoke about his recent visit to Baghdad, where he met Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

During a lengthy conversation, Kuwaiti Amir al-Sabah and Loncar examined the latest situation in the Gulf, specially from the point of view of the latest UN decision, which sets Iraq a deadline of 15 January to withdraw from Kuwait. Although it is still early to make any conclusions (Loncar is yet to have talks with Kuwaiti Crown Prince Shaykh S'ad al-Sabah and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh al-Sabah) the first impressions show, above all, that hope is not yet lost for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait by 15 January. The Kuwaiti side also expresses concern about the development of the Gulf crisis should Iraq decide to remain in the occupied territory. Loncar also met today with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh al-Sabah, who had welcomed him at al-Ta'if airport. Al-Ta'if, well-known as an exclusive Saudi resort, the center of Kuwaiti refugees, and the seat of the Kuwaiti government in exile, shows all the signs of the dramatic crisis in the Gulf.

Kuwaiti diplomatic sources here estimate that since 2 August last year, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, the Iraqis have destroyed property in that country to the value of $60 billion. It is thought it could take Kuwait at last five years to bring the economy back to the level prior to the occupation.

The Yugoslav foreign minister will meet the Kuwaiti foreign minister again tomorrow, after which he will travel to Riyadh.

Concludes Talks

LD0501150191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1257 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, 5 Jan (TANJUG)—Kuwait fully supports the peace mission of Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, namely Yugoslavia's mission as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement to resolve the Gulf crisis. Likewise, Kuwait assessed Loncar's recent visit to Baghdad as exceptionally important for seeking a political solution to the crisis. Finally, we think that Budimir Loncar's visit to Baghdad considerably contributed to a meeting between U.S. State Secretary Baker and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, scheduled to take place on 9 January in Geneva.

We read the above in the statement which Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh al-Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah gave to TANJUG in the Saudi city of al-Ta'if after his talks with Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, who arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday within the framework of his Middle East peace mission.

Loncar had talks with Kuwaiti amir Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Premier Shaykh S'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and, of course, with his host al-Sabah.

In the course of very exhaustive talks, the Kuwaitis wanted above all to hear Loncar's impressions, as well as the assessments of his recent talks in Baghdad. They think, however, that it was fortunate that Yugoslavia was the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement at the time of the invasion of Kuwait.

Loncar and the Kuwaiti leaders with whom he had talks agreed that the point of departure in resolving the Gulf crisis is the first UN Security Council resolution, Number 660, which orders Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. The end to the Gulf crisis would have to be by a global arrangement on security in the Middle East, think Loncar and his interlocutors, and this would be a prelude to the final solution to the crisis in the Middle East as a whole.

The Yugoslav foreign secretary was greeted in al-Ta'if with much respect. The Kuwaitis know, of course, how delicate Loncar's peace mission is, but they also nurture hope that, coupled with the other international factors, it may bear fruit.

In the course of the talks yesterday evening and today the two sides also examined bilateral relations. Kuwait expressed keen interest in the participation of Yugoslav firms in the restoration of Kuwait. It is estimated that the first phase alone would cost about $60 billion. Judging by what was heard in al-Ta'if, Yugoslav firms could play an important role in Kuwait's reconstruction.

Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, leaves for Riyadh this evening for talks with the highest-ranking representatives of the Saudi court. As expected, the main subject of the talks will be the same as in al-Ta'if—the Gulf situation—but bilateral relations will also be discussed.

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Arrives To Inspect Northern Region Troops

LD0501205891 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Excerpt] With God's care and protection, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz

Al Sa'ud, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, arrived in the Northern Region at 2100 this evening so that he, may God grant him support, may inspect the Saudi Armed Forces in their positions and to meet with his sons, the military, there.

He was welcomed at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, the second deputy prime minister and minister of defence and aviation and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad Bin Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the emir of the Eastern Region; His Royal Highness Staff Lieutenant General Prince Khalid Bin Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, commander of the joint forces and theatre of operations. [passage omitted]

Inspects Saudi, Foreign Forces

LD0601140491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1315 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Northern region 6 Jan, SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the supreme commander of the Saudi Armed Forces, has paid an inspection visit to the Saudi Armed Forces, the brotherly Arab and Islamic forces, and the forces of the friendly countries present in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to support the Saudi Armed Forces' defensive tasks.

Addresses Troops 6 Jan

LD0601194691 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Speech by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud to Saudi and Arab Islamic Forces in the Northern Region of Saudi Arabia on 6 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God, the merciful, the compassionate. Prayers onto his Prophet Muhammad. Brothers, fighters: I am very lucky to meet good people on this nice day. These people have come here to assist the forces of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They came here by their own choice and desire when I expressed the wish for support from good people immedately following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

I was astonished when I heard and was informed on 2 August about the attack by the Iraqi forces against sisterly and beloved Kuwait. At first, I did not believe what I had heard. Once I was assured of the news, I was extremely sad. In truth I never did believe such an act would be made by the Iraqi president because my acquaintance with President Saddam Husayn goes back a long way. I have known him from 1975 until the beginning of the aggression against Kuwait in 1990. That night was a tragic one. The incident was very painful. No matter how I try to explain or clarify the extent of what happened, other brothers and friends did just that. They explained this momentous incident that nobody ever expected to happen, particularly myself.

It is known that the relationship that used to exist between myself and President Saddam Husayn was an excellent one from the very beginning. This relationship began in 1975 and continued until the catastrophe that we are experiencing now and which we hope will end without having to resort to war or fighting if it is at all possible. I would like to stress once again that I did not believe nor did I comprehend what I had heard since the beginning of the Iraqi attack on Kuwait for several reasons. I would like to state some of these reasons, and this probably is important.

Following the month of Ramadan, I noted that there was some increasing tension. This tension was confined to OPEC oil production quotas. I believed that it was only natural for such a thing to happen from time to time. Immediately after the month of Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn sent Minister Sa'dun Hammadi to see me. He felt uneasy about some countries exceeding their oil quotas as allocated by the latest OPEC meeting. I am saying this, and my address might not have military or political weight, but my initial feelings told me that something could have happened. I never imagined witnessing this situation we are going through now. The debates at the time were about production increases or dealing in OPEC quotas. I managed to convince President Saddam Husayn's envoy that such matters could be overcome, and with God's assistance we would overcome them. Eventually, I contacted His Highness Amir Jabir, president of the State of Kuwait, and His Highness Zayd Bin-Sultan Shaykh Al-Nuhayan, the United Arab Emirates president, and agreed on matters of common interest. Then matters returned to normal in accordance with the OPEC resolution.

Calls Saddam To Withdraw

LD0701022191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2112 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Speech by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud to Saudi and Arab Islamic Forces in the Northern Region of Saudi Arabia on 6 January]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] I remember this matter because it was the beginning. Yes, I noticed there was an unusual forcefulness in my talk with Sa'dun Hammadi, but I did not find this surprising on the part of Sa'dun Hammadi, because I knew him to be tempermental in the past. Things ended at this point. I believed we had reached an organization of matters interesting Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and even the Arab Gulf states in general, as well as the thirteen OPEC member states. After this, we began to notice an unusual manner on the part of Iraq in its talk with Kuwait concerning the Kuwaiti-Saudi border. [passage omitted]

If one wants to go back to the origins—and anyone who has read history and followed history will fully realize Kuwait has nothing to do with Iraq, and Iraq has nothing to do with Kuwait. Nations are estimated not in accordance with the number of their populations and their

power, but in accordance with the respect they show toward each other. Then, matters developed to where we are now. In brief, I have said that what I am going to talk about has been the subject of talks of Arab, Islamic, and world leaders. It is the subject of the talk of the world at this moment and in these hours.

Now, is Iraq prepared to withdraw from Kuwait without restrictions and unconditionally, or is it not? I personally do not believe there will be any harm for Iraq to do so, at all, if it takes into account the circumstances and the situation, if it considers that it would be withdrawing from an Arab country that has done it no harm. If harm in connection with a border issue or oil fields or anything else occurred, then something better could have taken place, and matters between Kuwait and Iraq could have ended in a much nicer way. But what happened has happened, and now will it be reason that will rule and overcome things we do not want? As a matter of fact, reason must prevail. [passage omitted] Why does the Iraqi president not show the Arab sense of honor that he always mentions, and decide today or tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow to withdraw from Kuwait without restrictions? If Iraq has any demands concerning Kuwait, then, if he wants, there is the Arab League. If he wants to take one of the Arab brothers as an arbitrator, then the Arab brothers are there, and if he wants the international scene, then there is the International Court of Justice. Let us spare ourselves the evil of what might occur. What might happen if matters become complicated?

From this podium I say that I absolutely want matters to come to an end in a way that is beneficial to Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and all the world, and to end by peaceful means. These peaceful means can be realized only with the the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait without any restriction or condition, and with the restoration of the normal situation as it was before, under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, his government, and his people. I believe this would not be a miracle if President Saddam Husayn wants to overcome the obstacles. [passage omitted] I believe matters have now reached an impasse, and this door will be opened either on the end of a tragedy through peaceful means or in another manner. I believe no one wants the second possibility to happen, but self-defense is a legitimate right. No one can say self-defense is not a legitimate right. A country has been the subject of an aggression and removed from the world map on the grounds that it does not exist. There is also a country which threatens Saudi Arabia. Therefore, there is something disturbing.

I have already said matters end up and are in the hands of President Saddam Husayn, and depend on whether he will realize that the best thing to do is announce unequivocally that he will definitively withdraw from Kuwait without any restrictions—then, if he has a claim, he will be able to make any claim against Kuwait at the Arab League, or the International Court of Justice, or any other organ—or whether he is determined on fighting. Anyone insisting on fighting will bear the responsibility for the fighting. I pray to God to make him think in the best and sound way. This would be the ideal solution. I believe the world leaders have clearly insisted that what is required is the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait. This is what is required. [passage omitted]

Answers Questions After Address

LD0701024891 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2112 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Question-and-answer session with King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud following his speech to Saudi and Arab islamic Forces in the Northern Region of Saudi Arabia on 6 January by unidentified reporters]

[Text] [Reporter] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, what do you expect the outcome to be of the meeting between Tariq 'Aziz and Secretary of State James Baker?

[Fahd] What has happened is best. The U.S. secretary of state and the Iraqi foreign minister will meet, and the opinion of the United States is known, namely the unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from the State of Kuwait; however, will Iraq come on this basis? If Iraq comes on this basis, I believe an understanding might be established.

[Reporter] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, you inspected the forces this morning. What do you expect; what do you think?

[Fahd] I knew before I inspected these forces. I knew their level of preparedness, and what I had expected I saw today. They are at the highest level and fullest military preparedness.

[Reporter] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, if Saddam Husayn withdraws from Kuwait, what do you expect his punishment to be after his withdrawal, and what do you intend to do in the future to be safe against an aggression he might launch in the future?

[Fahd] First, if Saddam withdrew from Kuwait unconditionally, I believe this would intercede in his favor and that he would deal with others on the basis that such an action would not be repeated. If he realized this, in my view any question of apprehension in the future should be resolved in a manner that will guarantee that the events such as those of the recent past will not be repeated.

[Reporter] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, will the deployment of a multinational force such as this in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia lead to the permanent presence of U.S. forces?

[Fahd] No, not at all. The forces present at the moment are Arab, non-Arab, and Islamic. They have come for certain circumstances, and they will return to their homelands after the end of these certain circumstances.

[Reporter] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, when you made your decision to call foreign forces to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, it was said at the time that you had taken a serious step and that it might create instability in the region. What do you think of these forces? Do you think you have taken the right step? Is there any instability?

[Fahd] We have taken the right step and do not find anyone who opposes it except those who support Saddam.

[Reporter] Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, President Bush has remarked recently that by instinct he believes, hopes, and is optimistic that Saddam Husayn will withdraw from Kuwait without a war. Do you share President Bush's feeling? What is your feeling now as we are approaching the final date?

[Fahd] I share with President Bush his opinion on this issue because I know Saddam has the capability and the courage to make such a decision, such as his decision vis-a-vis Iran, in the interest of Iraq. Anyhow, I would like for you to tell our friends present here that it pleases me to talk with them; however, all that they ask me has been dealt with by other people. On the other hand, I promise that after this problem is over, I will talk with them extensively and I will invite them to Riyadh. I would like to say to our friends that here is the information minister, and they only have to register their names with him, even if they are from the United States or Europe or any other place, and I will send them an invitation to come and see the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at my expense of course, because they have come now and seen the battlefield, while I wish they could see this country that 20 years ago was backward and now is among the developed countries. Peace, God willing, will be achieved, and peace there should be. There is no peace before Iraq leaves Kuwait. That is peace.

[Announcer] After that the royal anthen was played, indicating the conclusion of the ceremony, and the custodian of the two holy mosques left the joint forces at the front.

Returns to Riyadh

LD0601205191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Excerpt] With God's care and protection, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, returned to Riyadh this evening after having inspected the Saudi Armed Forces and forces of the fraternal Arab and Islamic and friendly countries at their positions in the northern region. [passage omitted

Syrian Defense Minister To Inspect Troops

LD0401173791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1710 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 4 Jan (SPA)—General Mustafa Talas, the Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and an accompanying delegation, left Riyadh today for the northern zone in order to visit and inspect the Syrian Forces there. [passage omitted]

Egypt's 'Abd-al-Majid Arrives in Riyadh 4 Jan

LD0401212591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 4 Jan [SPA]—His Excellency Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived in Riyadh this evening on a visit to the Kingdom. He was received on arrival by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister. [passage omitted]

SFRY's Loncar Arrives in Riyadh on Visit

LD0501204191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1928 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Jan (TANJUG)—Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, this evening arrived in Riyadh for a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia. The federal secretary for foreign affairs, who in the past two days has been in al-Ta'if (Saudi Arabia) for talks with the most senior representatives of Kuwait, tomorrow meets with his host Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the Saudi foreign minister.

During the next two days, Loncar is also expected to meet with other high-ranking representatives of the Saudi royal family. Loncar's visit to Saudi Arabia is drawing attention for several reasons. Above all, this is a matter of the continution of the peace mission which the non-aligned countries have entrusted to Yugoslavia, as president of the Nonaligned Movement, to search for a political solution to the Gulf crisis. It is also significant that Budimir Loncar is the first Yugoslav foreign minister to visit Saudi Arabia, with whom Yugoslavia still does not have diplomatic relations. As a result, talks on bilateral relations between Yugoslavia and Saudi Arabia are awaited with special interest, too.

World Said 'Determined' Not To Reward Iraq

JN0601145891 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 4 Jan 91 p 3

[Editorial: "No to Procrastination"]

[Text] The new U.S. offer for dialogue with Iraq cannot be viewed in isolation from the principles which the entire world is abiding by in its endeavor to resolve the Gulf crisis peacefully. Any progress in the intense diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis hinges on the Iraqi regime's intransigent position—at a time when these efforts are intensifying as the deadline set by the UN Security Council for Iraq to withdraw or be forced to withdraw approaches.

As the case has been since the beginning of the Gulf crisis—which resulted from the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait—the choice is in the hands of the Iraqi regime.

There is no alternative to the military solution unless the Iraqi regime abandons its arrogance and intransigence, and responds to all UN resolutions concerning the Kuwait issue through a complete withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy.

There is no time for procrastination. Before it is too late, the Iraqi regime must realize that the proposed meeting between the United States and Iraq is a chance for Iraq to retreat from its intransigence and be persuaded that the path of war will only bring destruction and damage to the Iraqi people, who have suffered a great deal under Saddam's tyrannical rule, and that the path of peace is the only path that will spare everyone the perils of the catastrophe, which is what the Iraqi regime is pushing the region to.

By providing an opportunity for a peaceful settlement, the world has proved—and is still proving—that it prefers peace to war. But at the same time, the world cannot in this case permit the Iraqi regime to continue its aggression and threats against the entire world order. The world community has made its decision to use force unless Iraq withdraws peacefully from Kuwait. It has also underlined its determination to put an end to aggression, and not to reward the aggressor. Will the Iraqi regime heed the voice of reason before it is too late?

United Arab Emirates

U.S. To Stop Political Effort After 15 Jan

NC0601100991 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD reports today that U.S. President George Bush has informed some heads of the international alliance against Iraq that the political efforts to solve the Gulf crisis by peaceful means will cease completely after 15 January. Citing U.S. diplomatic sources, the paper says that the United States will not participate in any political effort after the Geneva meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz next Wednesday if Iraq does not make a clear commitment to withdraw completely from Kuwait by the deadline. The sources said that a military solution for the crisis is imminent. President Bush does not have much hope of the Geneva meeting's achieving a breakthrough for a total and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait before 15 January.

Syrian, Danish Ministers Deliver Messages

NC0501121391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Jan (MENA)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on regional developments in light of the continued Iraqi occupation of the sisterly State of Kuwait and the international efforts being exerted to implement international resolutions, to achieve a full Iraqi withdrawal, and to restore the legitimate government of Kuwait led by his Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah in that country. The message also dealt with bilateral relations.

Syrian Defense Minister Major General Mustafa Talas conveyed the message to the UAE president at a meeting today. The Syrian defense minister arrived in Abu Dhabi earlier today.

[In another Abu Dhabi-datelined item, Manama WAKH in Arabic at 1120 GMT on 5 January adds, "His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan of the UAE has received a message from Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter on developments in the Gulf crisis and bolstering bilateral cooperation. The message was delivered by Danish Defense Minister Knud Enggaard during his meeting with the president here today."]

Yemen

President, Iraqi Minister Exchange Messages

JN0601174691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1712 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Aden, 6 Jan (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, has received an oral message from his brother President Saddam Husayn on bilateral relations and developments in the region. This took place today when President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received here Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, who is currently visiting Yemen. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, Supply and Trade Minister Fadil Muhsin 'Abdallah, and Iraqi Ambassador to Yemen 'Abd-al-Husayn al-Rafi'i.

[Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 91 in a report on the meeting adds the following: During the meeting, Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih gave the trade minister a reply message to his brother leader President Saddam Husayn on the support of Yemen—

leadership and people—for Iraq against the current escalation in the Arabian Gulf region.]

Salih Conveys Reply Message

JN0601200291 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, has received an oral message from his brother leader President Saddam Husayn on bilateral relations and developments in the region. [passage omitted]

During the meeting, Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih gave the trade minister a reply message to his brother leader President Saddam Husayn on the support of Yemen—leadership and people—for Iraq against the current escalation in the Arabian Gulf region. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Reacts to UK Expulsions

JN0401165391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—In a statement to INA, an official Foreign Ministry spokesman said the following:

In a series of provocative measures, the British Government has resorted to another unjustified step. Yesterday, it expelled 10 Iraqi diplomats working at the Iraqi Embassy in London and the other Iraqi institutions as well as an additional number of Iraqi citizens residing in Britain.

While denouncing these measures and considering them as one of those measures that reflect a hateful aggressive colonialist mentality, Iraq maintains its right to reply to these measures and to take action at the appropriate time.

The spokesman added that the British Government has committed an aggressive act and followed U.S. policy as if it were a satellite to it. The spokesman stressed that such actions reinforce Iraq's sound approach of exposing the aggressive colonialist policies and that Iraq will continue to adhere to its national rights and the Arab nation's rights, particularly in Palestine.

[Dated] 4 January 1991

Tariq 'Aziz To Meet Baker 9 Jan

JN0401171091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1708 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—Iraq has announced its agreement on holding a meeting between Tariq 'Aziz, foreign minister and deputy prime minister, and his U.S. counterpart in Switzerland on 9 January. This came in a statement Tariq 'Aziz made to INA this evening.

The foreign minister said in his statement that Iraq has responded to the U.S. proposal due to its respect for world public opinion and the accepted norms in dealings between countries, and not due to its appreciation for the U.S. administration's position and bad approach. The U.S. side informed us of its approval for a meeting between myself and Secretary Baker on 9 January in Switzerland. The text [as received] of the foreign minister's statement follows:

Commenting on the latest U.S. proposal to hold a meeting between the foreign ministers of Iraq and the United States in Switzerland, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, told INA that the U.S. administration presented its new proposal on meeting in Switzerland, which it accompanied, as it has previously, with a series of arrogant statements. This showed the bad intentions of the U.S. Administration.

Iraq has always affirmed, and continues to affirm its fixed position that it is not afraid of pressure and does not determine its policy in an atmosphere of threats. Despite the U.S. Administration's bad approach Iraq, due to its respect for world public opinion and accepted norms in dealings between countries, and not due to its appreciation for the U.S. Administration's position and bad approach, has responded to the U.S. proposal. The U.S. side has informed us of its approval of a meeting between myself and Secretary Baker on 9 January in Switzerland.

Tariq 'Aziz said: We were prepared to go to Washington and to receive Secretary Baker in Baghdad if the U.S. Administration had acted in a polite manner and respected the internationally recognized norms in setting dates for meetings held by a head of state with envoys from other countries.

Regarding the topics of the meeting to be held in Switzerland, the foreign minister said: In the meeting, Iraq will stress its firm principled position of rejecting the method pursued by the U.S. Administration and rejecting the language of threats. It will also underscore its adherence to it rights and its unwavering readiness to defend them. It will also seek to learn if the other party is ready to work for peace and security in the entire region on the basis of fairness and justice.

The minister stressed that at the forefront of issues that need the application of fairness and justice is the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's right to establish their free state on the land of Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital.

The minister said that our position was conveyed to the United States when we informed it this evening of our agreement to hold the meeting on 9 January.

Replying to a question by INA on statements made by European officials and by the UN secretary general on their desire to visit Iraq, the foreign minister said: Iraq welcomes anyone who wants to visit and to hold a serious dialogue to achieve peace throughout the region.

Declines Offer of 10 Jan EC Talks

JN0501184191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry has stated the following to INA:

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has apologized for not accepting the invitation extended to him by Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos on behalf of the European Community to meet with the European troika in Luxembourg on 10 January.

The spokesman said that in its reply to the invitation, Iraq pointed out that the EC had previously extended an invitation to the foreign minister to visit Rome and meet with the then EC chairman and that Iraq accepted and welcomed that invitation. However, the European presidency retreated and withdrew its invitation when the foreign minister's visit to Washington did not take place because of the arrogant tactics pursued by the U.S. Administration over setting the dates.

The spokesman added: The foreign minister informed Mr. Jacques Poos that Iraq considered that behavior inappropriate and that it undermines the rules of conduct among states and indicates a subordination to the U.S. policy. He also emphasized to him that if the European troika desires a dialogue with Iraq, its visit to Baghdad would be welcomed.

The spokesman added: We would like to express our great appreciation for the European public opinion and the European peoples, but we feel indignant about some European states' subservient policy of subordination to the aggressive and arrogant U.S. policy. Such a policy is reflected in the EC's official positions toward the situation in the region. These governments should know that the one who wants to talk to Iraq should visit Baghdad and speak directly to its officials.

[Dated] Baghdad, 18 Jumada al-Akhirah 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 5 January 1991.

Envoy to UN Meets With Perez de Cuellar

JN0401210791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2050 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] United Nations, 4 Jan (INA)—UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar met with Iraq's permanent UN ambassador, Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari today.

Following the meeting, al-Anbari told journalists that he briefed the UN secretary general on Iraq's agreement on a meeting between Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, with his U.S. counterpart Baker in Switzerland on 9 January. He added that he stressed to Perez de Cuellar that Iraq welcomes anyone who wants to visit Iraq and that he also discussed with him some ideas on the meeting Perez de Cuellar will hold with U.S. President George Bush tomorrow, Saturday.

Saddam Receives France's Vauzelle 5 Jan

JN0501131691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—Leader President Saddam Husayn today received Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the International Affairs Commission of the French National Assembly. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister, attended the meeting.

Vauzelle: Meeting 'Exploratory'

LD0501145191 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Saddam Husayn received Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, in Baghdad this morning. INA has not detailed the content of the talks. A former Elysee spokesman and a political figure close to Francois Mitterrand, Michel Vauzelle was keen to reiterate in Amman on Wednesday [2 Jan] night that his visit to Iraq is exploratory and strictly on personal initiative.

Vauzelle Learns 'Much'

LD0501193291 Paris Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] As you know Saddam Husayn today received Michel Vauzelle, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the National Assembly. The meeting lasted more than three hours. Michel Vauzelle said upon departing: I came to listen and I must say that I learned much about the situation from President Saddam Husayn.

Talks Termed 'Useful'

JN0501204491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2006 GMT 5 Jan 91

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] President Saddam Husayn received Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the French National Assembly's Foreign Affairs Commission, in Baghdad today. He discussed the Iraqi and French positions on the Gulf crisis with him for over four and a half hours. A French diplomatic source in Baghdad said the talks were very thorough and useful. They were held in the presence of Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Michel Vauzelle said in Baghdad a short time ago that everything remains possible provided Iraq makes some gestures. He indicated that during his lengthy meeting with President Saddam Husayn, he heard a detailed and concrete explanation of the Iraqi position, adding that he will convey this to the French authorities. He said: I have obtained the information, and the responsible politicians should now make the decisions.

Envoy to U.S. on Readiness for 'Additional Steps'

JN0501204091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2010 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—Iraq's ambassador in Washington Muhammad al-Mashshat has expressed hope that the Geneva meeting will be the first step toward peace.

In a statement to the "Newsmaker" program of the U.S. television network CNN monitored here last night, al-Mashshat said that Iraq wants peace and is ready to take additional steps for the sake of peace.

The ambassador stressed the need for an expanded and profound discussion of all the region's problems on an equal basis. He said that Iraq does not recognize the 15 January deadline and that we do not want to kill our citizens or the Americans.

He said that Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has been given wide powers to hold a dialogue with one goal—peace.

He also affirmed that the Geneva meeting is the first step, and that all the region's problems cannot be solved in one meeting. He affirmed that President Saddam Husayn believes in peace, but will take all measures to defend the country. He pointed out that the United States is ignorant of the region's civilization and traditions.

Envoy to Austria Sees No Policy Change in Geneva

AU0601134791 Vienna KURIER in German 6 Jan 91 p 3

[Interview with Rahim al-Kital, Iraqi ambassador to Austria, by Karl Wendl in Vienna; date not given: "Husayn Will Certainly Not Change His Policy"]

[Text] [Wendl] Iraq has always called for negotiations. Now there is such an opportunity to hold a dialogue in Geneva. What do you expect of the negotiations?

[Al-Kital] I cannot say anything about it, I can only speculate. However, the surrounding circumstances are extremely unfavorable. You remember what Secretary of State James Baker said. He said that this is the last chance for Iraq. That is an ultimatum rather than a proposal. They say from the start that they do not intend to discuss Palestine or any other problem. There are just too many no's in the U.S. terms. Iraq will certainly not change its policy of 12 August 1990.

[Wendl] The United States has talked about a "last attempt" to prevent war.

[Al-Kital] We do not believe in an ultimatum. The "last attempt"—these are terms used by Baker, not by us. We believe that sensible negotiations take time. Moreover, negotiations must contain offers. But what have the Americans offered us? Nothing. Absolutely nothing. What discussion will there be? They will tell Tariq 'Aziz that Iraq must pull out of Kuwait. That's it. Nothing more. Are these negotiations? These are demands. This is, of course, my personal opinion.

[Wendl] The Americans are not the only ones opposed to your aggressive policy. The whole world opposes your policy.

[Al-Kital] You say that the whole world is opposed to us. I say it is the United States. The Americans sent their troops to Saudi Arabia before there was a UN resolution. All UN resolutions were adopted after that. I am sure that the EC is not entirely happy with this U.S. policy.

[Wendl] If the negotiations in Geneva fail, there will be war. What type of war would that be?

[Al-Kital] If the United States were to attack us by land, it would not have a chance. If Bush were to use nuclear weapons, this would be the biggest crime of mankind.

Minister Says Bush Statements Reflect 'Arrogance'

JN0501210691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2029 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Jan (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has ridiculed Bush's statements in which he threatened Iraq, saying it must withdraw from Kuwait before 15 January.

In a statement to INA this evening, the culture and information minister said that Kuwait is the 19th governorate, that the dates set by Bush exist only in his mind and imagination, and that we do not recognize them.

He added that Bush's statements reflect his arrogance and hostility; and if he tries confrontation, then he will receive something for which he will not be envied and that history, the American people, and the world will curse him, because his statements and actions do not reflect a sense of responsibility, a concern for peace, or an intention to hold a profound dialogue to discuss all the region's issues, at the forefront of which is the Palestine question.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim pointed out that the challenges made by Bush, who is scaring the world with talk about Iraq's danger, are only pretexts and justifications behind which Bush is hiding to carry out his occupation of our Arab sanctities in Mecca and Medina in the land of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

He said: We repeat that Kuwait is our land and that it has returned to us; and the defunct corrupts of the al-Sabah family have gone to hell.

The culture and information minister called on the American people and Congress to be aware of the way Bush thinks and his evil intentions, how he wants to use the meeting with Iraq as a cover to carry out his aggression, and how his statements have exposed his intentions that have become clear to everyone.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim addressed Bush, saying: Get out of the Arabs' holy places before they bury you in the sands of the Arabian Peninsula.

Ramadan Accuses U.S. of 'Preparing for War'

JN0501201591 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that if war breaks out in the Gulf, it will spread to several Arab and Islamic states.

In a statement published in Baghdad today, Ramadan said the United States would push the world into a definite catastrophe if its forces and allies attacked Iraq. Ramadan accused the United States of preparing for war with the aim of controlling Arab wealth. By doing so, he added, it will turn the region into a war zone.

Saddam Chairs 4 Jan RCC Meeting

JN0401182091 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1803 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] President Saddam Husayn chaired a meeting of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], during which the latest political developments were discussed.

National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim attended the meeting.

Reportage on Celebration of Army Anniversary

Speaker Greets Saddam

JN0501193891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Jan 91

["Text" of cable to President Saddam Husayn from National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih on the occasion of Army Day on 6 January 1991, the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army—date not specified]

[Text] Make ready your strength against them to the utmost of your power. God truly loves those who fight in His cause in battle array, as though they were a solid cement block. [Koranic verses]

To the leader of the heroic mujahidin, the veteran president, and the maker of victory and the new Arab and Islamic glory, Saddam Husayn: May God preserve you and guide your steps on the path of strength and victory. On the anniversary of building struggling Iraq's fortress, its impregnable wall, and its striking hand, the anniversary of the establishment of its brave Army on 6 January 70 years ago, the representatives of the glorious Iraqi people are glad to address their great leader with pride, great love, and deep faith that the greatest achievements will take place under your leadership through repulsing the vile aggression from our country. They also extend to you their great respect, and beseech Almighty God to grant you long life, continued good health, and firmness in order to take Iraq, the Arab nation's youths, and the loyal Muslims of the world into free life, honor, and real strength, so that the trench of faith and justice can confront the remnants of infidelity, injustice, and aggression.

Aggression against our great Iraq, Mr. President, has not been new in the life of the despicable Jewish leaders and the people of infidelity like Bush and his U.S., British, and Israeli cliques and the humiliated, disappointed, infidel, misled, and ignorant Arab rulers like Fahd and Husni and their followers. Iraq has been and continues to be the pillar and the springboard of the nation's youths toward the realm of right, freedom, and justice, so that the aspirations of Arabs and Muslims are pinned on the mujahidin men, whose struggle and sacrifice for the sake of God and the nation's principles, doctrine, and land are known to the history of the world.

The contemporary world will see how the Iraqis, under your wise leadership, will liberate our usurped land, Palestine, and return its legitimate people to it; how Bush's agents will be defeated and expelled from the land of Islamic sanctities, Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]; and how Mecca and the tomb of Prophet Muhammad Ibn-'Abdallah, God's peace and blessings be upon him, will be rescued from captivity. And soon will the unjust assailants know what vicissitudes their affairs will take. [Koranic verse]

Mr. Leader President, your steadfast Iraqi people will remain a strong wall, a protective shield, and a strong hand over the heads of the unjust and tyrannical people. They will also continue to follow your brave and firm steps until clear victory so that they will adhere to God's saying: Nay, we hurl the truth against falsehood, and it knocks out its brain, and behold, falsehood doth perish! Ah! Woe be to you for the false things you ascribe to us. [Koranic verse]

May God grant you long life, preserve you, and guide your steps, Mr. President. March ahead; it is God who grants victory.

[Signed] National Assembly Speaker Sa'dun Mahdi Salih.

Saddam Speaks

JN0601100791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0805 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn on the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Army on 6 January—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. May we hurl the truth against falsehood, and it knocks out its brain, and behold falsehood doth perish. [Koranic verse]

O great Iraqi people; O brave men in our valiant Armed Forces; O honest faithful men in the nation, who are looking toward every inherited glory and pride sponsored and accepted by God: This day, 6 January every year, marks the anniversary of the army of people, your army in great Iraq. On this day, we take time to think about the past and our hopes. And hope expands to cover all the present and the future, and to reach all the meanings of pride, sovereignty, liberation, and victory that please God and further the believers' distinguished position in today's world, on whose land the scorpions and vipers of treason and injustice spread like the swordfishes of treason and depravity, and the mean sharks prevail in it and on its seas and oceans vis-a-vis any possible opportunity.

When we contemplate 6 January this year, this day is unique as it is a day for the Army, people, and nation. In fact, I say without any hesitation it is a day for humanity; its human characteristics and repercussions will appear to people, historians, and researchers in accordance with

this description and aspiration for the future when its days become part of a glorious past, God willing, as it is the reality of this great struggling [mujahid] army.

Thus, it appears to you how, in certain historical circumstances, situations, and stages, all the glorious days—or many of those days—are represented in one single day; that is, it is sufficient to point at one day so that all the meanings and the brightness of light and pride will appear. And on the other hand, the longest stages and the large number of days cannot represent one single day in other circumstances.

The day which carries the weight of days in terms of great meanings in a basic side of the march of pride is 6 January. It is a day in the history of the jihad of the people of Iraq and the jihad of the nation, the history of their valiant Army, our Army and the brave Armed Forces in Iraq, whom we honor today and celebrate their great day. This day has become the day of all the glorious days of the Arabs in this stage. This day represents and also carries the slogans of shining glory, the struggle of our kinfolk and people, the heroes of stones in dear Palestine. It is a commemoration and symbol of all their sacrifices, their struggle, and jihad and the only gate for their aspiration and hope for pride, liberation, glory, and for a life in which people would live without humiliation or privation as long as the Army and the Armed Forces remain a living and honest part in a march with this description, and with these objectives and aspirations, which inspire them in their march forward.

These are the traits of our Army and Armed Forces, and this is their eternal pledge before the people and the nation, God willing. It is the good luck of this Army that it has begun to achieve its objectives and fight its enemies on the borders of the homeland, depending on the depth, and ability to mass troops and rally resources in terms of strategies and operations secured by the homeland and its sons. At the same time, the objectives of the confrontation are not viewed as only national or pan-Arab accomplishments. They go beyond this to assume the r proper description and to see their meanings go beyond the nation and the country as well as their just causes to the realm of mankind, showing duties and effects that have something to do with the depth of the nation's cultural and human role and that harmonize and interact with all the spiritual laws God enacted for the nation so that it should observe them in its life and in its relationship with the Lord of the Heavens and the Earth. God made the nation a witness to all mankind, while he made Prophet Muhammad, the messenger of God, may God's peace be upon him, a witness to it.

What a great honor it is for you, O comrades within our Armed Forces; O comrades in arms who cherish the principles whose meanings were vindicated and whose translation into acts and deeds were based on this description of the victorious march, God willing! What a great honor it is for everybody wearing khaki and bearing the arms of the faithful to perform these duties, displaying the honor of the faithful soldier and Arab soldiership of which we read and heard when we were students in school—the honor of the army of the faith, liberation, and conquest in the early stages of the Islamic mission, the army of Muhammad Ibn-'Abdallah, the prophet of God, sent to all mankind, and the army of the well-guided caliphs. We had hopes and we had in our imagination clear and conspicuous images of all this without seeing examples of it on the ground. We found in the examples of struggle and jihad on Arab lands demonstrated by the proud and faithful men and the patient and faithful women who epitomized the community of Muhammad Ibn-'Abdallah and the roles of prophets and messengers in their Arab societies over many long years what comforted the hearts, allowed for hope to remain vivid, and ensured that endeavors will remain serious and persistent. Thus, they, within their own hearts, lived in this good way in which they demonstrated faith in God and in the role of the nation, after a firm faith and an unlimited ability to give to nurture a struggle and a jihad that cannot be stopped by difficulties and sacrifices, had made its dwelling within their minds and chests. Thus, the mujahidin, preceded by martyrs became, as they are nowadays, the flagpole of this struggle and jihad along the long path which allowed for the accomplishment of the objectives that have been accomplished. Some objectives are yet to be attained. However, over all this past period and until recently, the army of the faith for which we waited and which we wanted was not founded. This continued until the nation's army was established in the great Iraq of faith, sacrifices, and glorious giving embodying meanings of struggle and jihad.

What a great honor it is for us, o brothers, o comrades-in-arms, to become part of this march, which is bordering on, and in fact dealing with, glory in all of its meanings on the ground, and enjoying the satisfaction of the nation's sons as illustrated by their sincere feelings and powerful cooperation. In fact, and this is more important, this march should also enjoy God's satisfaction as it has established this great bridge that links the meanings sought by our march and the brave Iraqi Armed Forces and the meanings once sought by the march of Muslims and the army of Muslim mujahidin in early Islam through dignity based on deep faith in the historical significance of Medina, Damascus, Baghdad, and Andalusia.

What a great honor it is for you to achieve several aims in one battle, even if such a battle is as complicated as the crucial battle. You are in one battle. You have been afforded a historic opportunity that your deceased fathers and forefathers awaited for a long time without seeing it with their own eyes; namely, the return of the branch to the origin; the return of Kuwait or the mother of the call [umm al-nida'] to the origin, great Iraq, to become truly, and not just a claim or wishful thinking, the 19th governorate on the beloved map of Iraq to create strong political Iraq for the present and the future

as a living part of the camp of the faithful and as a model for the nation in its modern age and on the path of its struggle for unity.

In the same battle, and just as Palestine has been and still is the symbol of all Arab strugglers and the banner of the jihad for all mujahidin among the sons of the nation, you and the heroes of the stones have turned the slogans on the path of struggle for the liberation of Palestine into a legitimacy acknowledged not only by the sons of the Arab nation, but by all righteous men and all the faithful in the world. You and the stone-throwing children have made the possibility of liberation and expulsion of invaders both visible and tangible, and this dream will soon come true, God willing, so it will be seen by the eyes that have been afflicted by trachoma and strained by the mirages created by rulers and politicians who have abandoned God and insistence on justice. Thus, mercy, honor, hope, and victory have also abandoned them.

In the same battle, you, the people, and nation are fighting against social and economic injustice and the unfair discrimination that have afflicted the nation as a result of disobedience and the actions of the disobedient who hold Arab nationality, or as a result of foreign injustice. You are waging a battle against double standards, injustice, corruption, and decadence whether on the level of the nation and the Arab homeland or on the level of mankind and the world at large.

The battle you are waging today is, therefore, the crucial battle for all of these reasons. It is the battle that God Almighty has willed and that has enabled you, through his divine choice, to be in the lead of those who will win its reward from God, and those who will win its honor, in proportion to the role and sacrifices entailed. The results—with what we have at hand and what God wants, and what we are still hoping for—will be great. The whole world and all the coming generations will speak about your stage and your battle in the way they deserve. And the positive effects will prevail and will be felt throughout the world and by all humanity.

After what we have said, is the saying that it is God's will not that of truthful Muslims and experienced rulers? It is indeed a true saying. It is the will of God Almighty; the will of man in it is merely an obedient and yet a choosing will: It is obedient to what God wants and accepts; however, it chooses the arena and objectives of virtue, dignity, and faith, and the role of Muslims in life and their role against injustice and the unjust, corruption and the corrupt, and against the devil of the age; that is, the stupid U.S. Administration and its protege, the Zionist entity, and those cursed ones who allied themselves with it on evil and vice and tyranny. Let there arise out of you a band of people inviting to all that is good, enjoining what is right and forbidding what is wrong. They are the ones to attain felicity. [Koranic verses] Consider also what the Prophet said: "Whoever sees an iniquitous action should change it by his hand; if he cannot, by his tongue; if he cannot, then by his heart, and that is the least that a faithful can do."

Brothers, comrades in arms and in faith: A battle thus described—considering its character, reward, honor, and effects—entails a sacrifice proportionate in quantity and quality, considering also its tangible and intangible results which please the friend and anger the enemy. Above all, and more importantly, are its results which will please God and the great forefathers while in their last abode.

Because the sacrifices and the conceivable difficulties, in addition to the difficulties that have become already tangible and visible, are among the things that can be understood and accepted insofar as they are willed by God and the mujahidin's choice of the road of jihad and virtue leading to them, we are speaking today about an aspect that might not have drawn the attention of everyone at the same level of seriousness; that is, the direct answer to a specific question: If the difficulties and sacrifices in the crucial battle are conceivable, then what are the facilities that have been provided by the crucial battle so as to facilitate the jihad of the mujahidin at the level of the nation and the level of Iraq and its Armed Forces?

You may know, brethren, that the achievement of all national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian aims combined will require the same sacrifices as those devoted to achieving these aims separately. This combination will produce a jihad and struggling momentum and unlimited conviction and faith. You know that if these national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian aims were separate and if the nation, people, and Armed Forces were to wage consecutive battles, the crucial battle might not take longer than any of these separate battles and would not have required more sacrifices as we have said. It is inconceivable that the battle for Palestine and the liberation of Palestine will be short if it is meant to be serious and glorious, nor is it conceivable that its sacrifices will be simple. The battle against the tyranny represented by the U.S. Administration and the slogans of oppression, which it raises on the international and regional levels; and expelling the forces of infidelity and infidels from the sanctities of the Muslims, cannot be short. No serious accomplishments can be achieved in this battle without serious sacrifices. This applies to resisting double standards, injustice, corruption, social degeneration, hegemony, and economic injustice on the level of the world and the region. Of course, no one should be led into believing that the battle for the unity of new Iraq following the great call which liberated Kuwait from the injustice of the oppressors and corrupt ones in the al-Sabah family will be a short battle whose sacrifices are simple.

According to this description of the battle and under these circumstances, whose characteristics and complications are known on both the pan-Arab and humanitarian levels as well as the level of Iraq and the rest of the Arab countries, it is natural for us to say that if the battle is divided into arenas, issues, slogans, and aims, it might split efforts and fighters and enable the opposite sides—once the faithful gathering is split up according to the

priorities of its national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian interests—to alienate ranks from a unified concentration on issues according to their correct priorities. These sides might at subsequent stages spread chaos that splits ranks on the basis of wondering about the time, sacrifice, and required effort each separate battle deserves.

The opposite ranks can also obstruct the timing or neutralize for some time the subsequent action of the subsequent battles after absorbing the surprise of the first battle, weakening the reasons of distinction or superiority in it, and using the negative aspects of the separate battle in their favor in subsequent battles.

Waging a comprehensive battle for the sake of all the objectives of our nation and our people in a single effort is a correct situation in all ideological and practical aspects. The facilities that are being presented and that have been really presented by the crucial battle on the regional, pan-Arab, and human levels as well as on the level of the faithful gathering—so that their ranks will further close and so that the belief of the believers will be stronger in the soundness of the slogans and policies and the expansion of the theater of operations to include the whole nation and all the good believers—are serious and cannot be presented at all by a battle that is not comprehensive.

At the same time, there are technical facilities of a tactical, strategic, and operational nature that cannot be imagined on the level of the Armed Forces if the battle takes place in a place different than its present place. Can we, for example, imagine better facilities for the Armed Forces waging a battle so described were they in another place? This is in addition to the closeness of the source with the field in terms of abundance and speed in the transportation lines, supply, replenishment, training, battle operations, and other things under one military command, the experienced command in Iraq, and under a political leadership that gained experience in circumstances of struggle and jihad and in running the military, popular, and political operations for many years.

Therefore, o brother mujahidin and valiant men in the Armed Forces, you are waging a battle with these positive characteristics because of its description and circumstances, as well as its known complications. And victory in this battle is certain, God willing.

What days are these, during which the believers will be satisfied with the sincere endeavor and the honor of the faithful associated with any of these days. And how will it look when this belonging is a belonging to jihad and an endeavor to carry arms in the face of injustice, oppressors, infidelity, infidels, their aggressive and expansionist objectives and their loathsome tyranny. The prime objective of this endeavor is the liberation of the dear land of Palestine and the Golan under the banner of the slogan God is great; pride is the lot of the faithful believers, the sons of the nation; and shame and a curse on the deviants, traitors, infidels, and hypocrites.

Glory and mercy to all the martyrs of the nation and the martyrs of the Armed Forces. O God, protect the people, the nation, and the good believers in the world; O God protect the comrades in arms and in faith, the brave men in the Armed Forces, from the evil of the evil ones and the hostility of aggressors. O generous God, protect and take all the faithful mujahidin and strugglers wherever they are.

God is great. And shame to the ignominious.

May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you.

Addresses Reception

JN0701105391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1003 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has affirmed that the Army in Iraq has become the people in the field of military specialization in terms of depth and guiding vision.

During a reception last night on the 70th anniversary of the Iraqi Army, his excellency said: With the [Iraqi] Army being entrusted in its field of specialization by the people, the Army is not a technical system only, as some armies are, but is a specialized extension of the people in terms of spirit, aspirations, life standards, loftiness, and higher principles.

His excellency added: Military capability becomes a factor of faithful capability when its basis is profound faith in what God wants and approves of and faith in truth and the need to renounce falsehood and resist it when it wants to dominate what is right or when falsehood wants to become the law of life.

President Saddam Husayn held a dinner banquet on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the valiant Iraqi Army.

The banquet was attended by members of the Revolution Command Council, a number of ministers, the Armed Forces General Command members, and a number of senior Army officers.

Saddam Chairs Armed Forces Command Meeting 6 Jan

JN0701101691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1007 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, last night chaired a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command.

The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization; and Defense Minister Staff Lieutenant General Sa'di Tu'mah 'Abbas.

Meets With RCC Members 7 Jan

JN0701101491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has met with the members of the Revolution Command Council [RCC].

The meeting was attended by National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih and Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim.

INA Denies Government Moving From Baghdad

JN0401140091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1342 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Jan (INA)—The INA political affairs editor has denied Western news media reports on Iraq's intention to move the government administration from Baghdad to another governorate. The editor described these reports as ridiculous and nonsense. He said that Baghdad will continue as it has always been—lofty, dear, and protected by its brave men under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, the capital of peace and victory.

AFP quoted THE NEW YORK TIMES today as saying that the Iraqi authorities informed diplomatic missions this week of their intention to move the government administration from Baghdad to the city of al-Ramadi before the end of 15 January.

Ministry Urges Citizens To Store Gasoline at Home

JN0601194791 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The Iraqi Oil Ministry once again called today on the Iraqis to store oil by-products, particularly gasoline, in their homes during winter to limit the impact of a possible attack on the Iraqi oil installations in accordance with what the Iraqi Oil Ministry announced on 19 December.

Paper Notes Multinational 'Peace Camp' Activities

JN0501202691 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 5, INA—A multi-national group of people now camping at the Iraqi-Saudi border in Judayyidat 'Ar'ar are energetically working to increase their contribution in averting the war with whatever sacrifice, said a spokesman of the group.

Coordinator of the Gulf peace camp, Mr Sa'dallah Idhrib told THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER that the main objective of the members of the peace camp is to avert the war. They know from the very beginning that they have to make sacrifices either by leaving their families, quitting their jobs or resigning.

"We are happy that we can do something to avert war, and, at the same time send a world-wide message to peace loving peoples that all of us are joining hand in hand to achieve a peaceful solution to the crisis", stressed the group coordinator.

Mr Idhrib added that members of the group are determined not to leave their camp till the shadow of war is gone once and for ever.

He said that the group of peacemakers, now in the south of Iraq, hoped that the camp would grow with more peace activists, "all depending on the generosity of the people, who in a way or another, believe that the madness of war should cease immediately. That is because most of the fund raising and contributions are coming from day-to-day workers who believe in peace and know that if war took place they are going to pay the price".

In the meantime, the coordinator described the camp saying that there are scores of peacemakers from some twelve countries. They are from Britain, Belgium, Italy, Australia, Germany, New Zealand, India, Ireland and other countries.

"The camp which is only two kilometres from the Saudi border is to host in the next few days another group of peacemakers. People are coming from Britain, Australia and India. They will join the camp voluntarily. [no closing quotation marks as received]

They are contacting peace organisations in their own respective countries", said Mr Idhrib. [no opening quotation marks as received]

He explained that the camp is between the two armies. "As it is about only two kilometres from the Saudi border, peacemakers can easily see the lights from Saudi Arabia".

He added that there are no army personnel near the camp.

On the activity of the peacemakers, Mr Idhrib said, "some spend their day time repainting the whole place. Others clean the whole place, some other cook and some do washing while others have their rest or a sort of a day off playing football, volleyball and table tennis. They in fact do these things while waiting their turn to have their share in the camp activities".

He also said that they hold a meeting at 9 o'clock everyday, for about 15 minutes, to decide who to do what on that specific day. Then, at 5 p.m. they hold a meeting to discuss how to participate more in the peace mission activities and what else can be done to avert the catastrophic war from happening.

"We come with some ideas from time to time that we have to refer back to our London office for approval", said the group coordinator and added that they are a very big happy family.

"We have proved without any doubt that people, no matter what their nationality or culture can live together in peace and harmony. The way we usually work is that we take a democratic vote for whatever decision we want to take".

He added that the only suffering they face is the cold weather during the night. He said that most of them were provided with sleeping bags and two or three blankets. "Yet it is very cold down there", the coordinator concluded.

Commander, Other Officers Reportedly Executed

JN0501161691 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Informed sources in Baghdad have said that Saddam Husayn's regime has launched a campaign of transfers and expulsions of some officer pilots in the Baghdad, Mosul, Dhi Qar, and Salah al-Din bases.

This action took place following the deterioration of the morale of several Air Force pilots following the execution of an Air Force commander who disclosed an emergency plan to smuggle [tahrib] Saddam Husayn, should his regime collapse, to Sanaa, Amman, or Tripoli, and that three aircraft would be used in the operation.

The senior officer has been executed because he exposed this plan. Although the regime has imposed a news blackout on the name of this officer, the fate of some pilots has been ambiguous for two months after they suddenly disappeared and after the reasons for these disappearances have not been announced. It is likely that a number of these officers have been executed. Among these officers is Air Force Commander Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, Staff Brigadier General Salih Muhammad Zahir, and Staff Brigadier General Dahham Khalaf.

Junior and senior Iraqi Air Force officers are haunted by a feeling of concern and premonition about the possibility of the occurrence of developments and liquidations after the military bureau began interrogating a group of Air Force officers to assess their loyalty to the late Air Force commander.

INA Ridicules Report

JN0601081091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Jan (INA)—The international affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY [INA] has ridiculed the Soviet news agency, TASS, report that His Excellency President Saddam Husayn executed one of his senior officers for divulging an escape plan in case the Ba'thist regime falls, as the agency put it.

Commenting on this, the editor added: It seems that the Soviet media have not been content with subservience to the U.S. and Zionist media organs in terms of their approach and conduct, but started to carry the lies that these organs as well as the agent media organs are propagating.

The INA editor went on to say: What increases our ridicule of the TASS report citing paid newspapers is that this agency, which we used to respect and trust because it observed a traditional approach of friendship between the two peoples over many long years, is turning day in and day out into an agency that lacks credibility and repeats the statements made by the enemies of Iraq, the Arabs, and the honorable people in the world.

Concluding his comments, the INA editor said: The Iraqi officers and soldiers do not deserve to be criticized by he who does not deserve to be responded to. They are the sons of the great Iraqi people who represent the weight of the glorious history of Iraq and the Arab nation and its jihad, history, and sacrifices. His Excellency Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, their leader and the leader of their march, carries the banner of their victory.

Cabinet Briefed on U.S., Iraqi Military Strength

TA0601162291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The Cabinet was told this morning that Iraq and the United States are continuing to prepare for a military confrontation in the Persian Gulf and that the Americans are seriously preparing for the possibility of war.

Our political correspondent says the Cabinet was told that the Iraqis have massed over 500,000 soldiers, 4,000 tanks, and thousands of armored personnel carriers and cannon along the Iraq-Kuwait border. This force represents only 60 percent of Iraq's overall military might. On the other hand, the Americans have massed 325,000 soldiers, over 1,000 tanks, 1,300 aircraft, and 1,500 helicopters in Saudi Arabia, giving them an aerial and technological edge.

At this stage, the Cabinet was told that there is no sign Iraq is getting ready to pull out of Kuwait. The Iraqis are improving their trenches in the occupied emirate, and they are digging antitank ditches that can be filled with fuel and ignited at the time of battle. The Iraqis also claim they have some surprises up their sleeves, including an Iraqi-made early-warning airplane and binary weapons.

[In a related report, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 6 January adds: "The Cabinet was told that Jordan is about to complete the large-scale maneuver it has been holding, and that it is maintaining almost a full-fledged emergency deployment."]

In Tel Aviv, the annual report issued by the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies says that the Iraqis have 54 surface-to-surface missile launchers, 40 sophisticated MiG-29's, and 25 Sukhoi-24's. Jaffee Center experts believe the Sukhoi-24's may enable the Iraqis to attack Israel.

Levi Calls Saddam's Speech 'Declaration of War'

TA0601120591 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister David Levi this morning said that Saddam Husayn's speech is a declaration of war. Minister Levi suggested that we do not play down Saddam's threats. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

The foreign minister made these remarks at the conclusion of today's cabinet session, speaking to reporters waiting outside.

A defense briefing was given at the beginning of the cabinet session this morning. The Arab countries in the coalition with the United Sates, the briefer said, agree that if Israel is attacked, it has the right to react. Leaders in the region have given clear indications to this effect, a defense source told the ministers.

Several ministers said they are worried by the announcements made by several airlines that they are suspending flights to and from Israel. Minister Ehud Olmert asked whether this phenomena has an anti-Israeli political aspect. Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav replied that the prices of airline insurance recently have become 40 times higher. The issue, therefore, is mainly economic.

Foreign Minister David Levi made a grim forecast. After the Gulf crisis is over, we will face difficult times. There will be heavy pressures on Israel to withdraw from the territories. We must prepare, Minister Levi suggested; we must gear up ahead of time to prevent the pressures and confront them.

[Begin Levi recording] Everyone understands that after this crisis is over—however it is resolved: through military or political moves—there will certainly be a situation in which most of the parties involved will want to enter the process called overall peace in the Middle East. We are preparing. There is no need to wait for the hurricane. We must do whatever needs to be done to hold off a sweeping act. This is what we have been doing, and Israel is standing on solid ground in terms of the justness of its demands. It must be made clear: Pressuring Israel would mean weakening it; and making Israel weak is not a constructive solution. Pressure must be applied on the Arab countries concerning the elementary issue: Sit and talk peace with Israel. This is the way it should be done. [end recording]

This is what the foreign minister had to say about Saddam Husayn's speech this morning:

[Begin Levi recording] I believe that, with all the hopes there are, today's address by Saddam Husayn is, in fact, a declaration of war. He delivered an absolutely extreme message. At the same time, no one is a prophet. It is impossible to know what this man might do. He could do just the opposite. The closer we get to the deadline the greater is the chance that he might announce or even carry out a withdrawal. I suggest that we do not disregard his threats. We are doing what should be done. Let us hope that we could prevent war. We are not declaring war against Saddam Husayn. However, as it has been said before: If he dares to attack, he will be served a serious blow. [end recording]

In the cabinet session earlier, Minister David Magen said that Jordan's King Husayn is hanging himself. The deployment of the Jordanian Army along the border with Israel has created an intolerable situation, Minister Magen said. [passage omitted]

Shamir Comments on Speech

TA0601174991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Arye Golan "earlier today"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, does Saddam Husayn's speech today sound like a declaration of war to you, too?

[Shamir] We are used to his speeches, and Saddam Husayn no longer surprises us. Consequently, I would say that none of us should take it as a surprise.

[Golan] In light of Iraq's announcements that it will not pull out of Kuwait, on the one hand, and President Bush's statements that Saddam must withdraw from Kuwait, on the other, would you say that there is still a chance for resolving this conflict peacefully?

[Shamir] The entire issue is so astonishing and unbelievable that I would suggest that all of us be prepared for anything, including the possibility that the solution may not be war.

[Golan] Do you mean to say that some kind of compromise will ultimately be reached?

[Shamir] I do not know. After all, nobody wants war. I find it hard to believe that anybody in the world wants war, although logic has it that war is inevitable. That is why I say that a last-minute solution may ultimately be found.

[Golan] Mr. Shamir, what is your message this evening to Israel's citizens who have been hearing about foreign airlines suspending their flights to Israel and foreigners being urged to leave the country?

[Shamir] It is only understandable that the 15 January deadline should make people think selfishly and see to it that they are not around then. There is nothing extraordinary about it. This should not affect or frighten us. We should take it at face value, without making a fuss about it or worrying too much. After all, this crisis in which we are caught is of a global and international nature.

[Golan] Finally, do you also foresee international pressure on us to withdraw from the territories once the Gulf crisis is over?

[Shamir] We are used to all kinds of pressures, and such a possibility should not be ruled out in the future. I hope that all those who had not previously learned this know now that pressure does not work on Israel.

[Golan] Mr. Prime Minister, I thank you very much.

[Shamir] Thank you.

More on Shamir Response

LD0601222591 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network in French 1900 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Excerpts] In the Gulf crisis there is a dialogue of the deaf between Saddam Husayn and George Bush, the American President. Three days before the meeting described as the last chance, the Iraqi No. 1 reminds the whole world that Baghdad is sticking to its position. In a very war-like speech, during which he mentioned the word battle at least 10 times, Saddam Husayn gave no hint of a chance of softening up. [passage omitted]

The only reaction this evening is that of Israel. I remind you that the Iraqi No. 1 paid homage to the Palestinian uprising and that he once again advocates an overall settlement in the Middle and Near East.

Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, reacted a few minutes ago, speaking on Europe-1. Listen to him:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I do not believe there is a direct link between this crisis which we are facing and our problem. As a principle, the best way of achieving a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflicts is direct negotiations between Israel, the Arab countries, and the various Arab elements. We can also talk to the others; but first of all we have to talk, we have to have direct negotiations with these direct partners.

[Unidentified correspondent] Are you ready to say to Saddam Husayn: Let us make peace; come to Jerusalem, like President Sadat?

[Shamir] Come with all. [as heard] In other words,I would like to receive all the leaders of the Arab contries in Jerusalem if they want to talk about peace between Israel and the Arab world. [end recording]

Peres Interviewed on War Prospects in Gulf

AU0701111991 Paris AFP in English 1055 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Paris, Jan 7 (AFP)—The Gulf crisis is "closer to war than a peaceful solution", Israeli Labour opposition leader Shim'on Peres said in a French radio interview Monday. "For the moment only a total withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait can prevent war", Mr. Peres said from Jerusalem.

He also said he believed the crisis "must be terminated with a clear solution and not with a compromise".

A compromise settlement "would be extremely dangerous and threatening, because (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn, with his military strength and his non-conventional arms, his missiles and his germ warfare and chemical bombs, would remain a permanent threat at the centre of the Middle East".

However Mr. Peres also said he thought "we're very much exaggerating Iraqi military might" and that "the Americans, French, and British have the political, military and economic superiority to arrive at a clear conclusion". Military personnel from the United States, Britain and France form the backbone of a multinational force ranged against Iraq in the Gulf region.

Levi Says Peace Efforts 'Alive and Kicking'

TA0701115091 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Throughout the morning, the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee has been listening to Foreign Minister David Levi, who said that the Israeli peace initiative is alive and kicking. The foreign minister made this observation after it was suggested that if no actual political negotiations take place, steps should be taken to build trust as an alternative measure. Shlomo Raz reports from the Knesset building:

Good day from the Knesset. This suggestion was in fact made by Foreign Minister David Levi, who wished to clarify the various reports regarding the peace initiative about which he has recently been making increasingly supportive remarks. In the committee meeting, he stressed that contrary to various recent publications, there is no linkage between negotiations and the cessation of the state of war. On the contrary, said the foreign minister, we would like them to sit down with us as early as tomorrow morning, in order to discuss the substance of the peace initiative.

If, however, there are no negotiations envisaged by the four-stage plan—which includes the cessation of the state of war as the first stage, simultaneous direct negotiations with Arab countries and the Palestinians thereafter, and wide-scale projects in the Middle East—if none of this happens, the foreign minister proposes to forge an alternative path that would create a foundation of trust between all the parties involved in the conflict in the Middle East. This solution would resemble the developments in post- Cold War Europe, where conflicts are obviously no longer resolved by war. This is the proposal of the foreign minister, whose address to the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee is still in progress. [passage omitted]

Study Cautions Against Response to Iraqi Attack

TA0601135291 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Reserves Major General Aharon Yariv, the head of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, says that Israel should think carefully about whether to respond to an attack by Saddam Husayn that causes only minor damage. The logic behind that reasoning is that the Iraqi leader would like to complicate the situation and to bring about a full-scale war between Israel and the Arabs.

In Gen. Yariv's view, Israel should be prepared for the possibility that some day—either before or after January 15—Saddam Husayn will initiate a military move against us, employing his modern Sukhoi-24 aircraft, which suit the task. While it is vital for Israelis to know that damage will be inflicted, they must avoid panic.

Gen. Yariv made these remarks in a news conference in Tel Aviv at the end of the Jaffee Center's annual report on the military balance in the Middle East. His remarks were reported by our correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Army Spokesman Denies Raid in Al-Biqa'

TA0501090991 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Lebanese radio stations report that Israeli helicopters this morning raided Hizballah positions in Syrian- controlled southwest al-Biqa'. The Israeli Army spokesman told our correspondent that these reports are totally unfounded. [passage omitted]

IDF Spokesman Reports Air Raid South of Sidon

TA0601094191 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has reported that Air Force planes this morning attacked a terrorist target near the 'Ayn-al-Hulwah refugee camp south of Sidon in Lebanon. All our planes returned safely to base. The target used to serve as headquarters and a launching pad for terror attacks.

'Terrorist' Killed Infiltrating From Jordan

TA0601061691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] A terrorist was killed and an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer was slightly wounded in a clash in the south of the Golan Heights this morning. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that a terrorist crossed the protective border fence from Jordan and ambushed an IDF patrol near the border road. When the IDF unit arrived at the site, the terrorist shot his pistol and shouted: Allahu akbar ["God is great" in Arabic]. The patrol commander was injured by the shots, but one of the soldiers fired at the terrorist and killed him. Major General Yosi Peled, the commander of the Northern Command, debriefed the soldiers and praised them.

Hamas Members Withdraw Deportation Appeals

TA0701114491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The four Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists from the Gaza Strip issued deportation orders by the defense authorities this morning withdrew their petition to the High Court of Justice. They did so after the judge, hearing their application to allow them access to classified material, rejected this on the grounds that this would constitute a genuine security risk.

The four then told the court, in turn, that they consider the deportation orders a political act and, quoting from the Koran, said they would rely only on Allah and the Prophet Muhammad.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew on 7 January at 1100 GMT in a similar report adds that once the appeals are withdrawn, "the deportation of the Hamas activists can be carried out immediately."]

Editorial Views Bush Statements on Geneva Meeting

JN0701090991 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Jan 91 p 1, 14

[Editorial: "Bush Is Imposing the Atmosphere of War on the Geneva Meeting"]

[Text] With the approach of the U.S.-Iraqi Geneva meeting, which the Arabs and rest of world countries and peoples welcome and hope will yield positive results in the interest of the peace option, President Bush deliberately made fiery and provocative statements to escalate tension in the Arab and international atmosphere, as well as to blow the war trumpet.

This came in an exposed maneuvre to transform the Geneva meeting into an occasion for issuing a war threat if Iraq does not agree to the U.S. preconditions on immediate withdrawal from Kuwait before the 15 January ultimatum.

Through his provocative statements, President Bush wants to destroy the Geneva meeting and shatter all hopes pinned on it before it sees the light of day, thinking that Iraq will take into account his threats and intimidation, and as a result, give in to his wishes and conditions.

However, Iraq's answer was swift and brave. President Saddam Husayn affirmed before the Iraqi people and valiant army, which is celebrating the anniversary of its glorious foundation, and before the Arab nation and the whole world, that Iraq is totally ready to wage the mother of all battles to liberate Palestine, the Golan Heights, and southern Lebanon, and to keep Kuwait, the mother of the call, an indivisible part of the map of Iraq.

Iraq has presented numerous peace initiatives, responded to all Arab and international initiatives including the proposal by Bush himself, carried the olive branch, and called for a political solution to avert the region and the whole of humanity a destructive war which will undoubtedly have tragic economic and environmental results whose effects will be felt on humanity at present and for many coming generations.

President Bush has ignored all Arab and international efforts to defuse the war and allow logic to prevail. He ignored the countries and people of the world who are aspiring for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and all the urgent causes in the region.

He also ignored the calls for peace coming from the region and the world and from widespread circles of European and American public opinion, clinging to his stubbornness and arrogance and threatening an abhorrent war the whole world is seeking to avert.

However, Iraq, which has succeeded in controling the political struggle of the crisis and in twisting President Bush's arm forcing him to present a proposal to convene the Geneva meeting between 'Aziz and Baker, is perfectly capable, from a position of power and ability, to direct the war, which it has pre-named the mother of battles, and achieve the great victory, God willing.

Editorial Praises Upcoming U.S.-Iraq Meeting

JN0501104391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Jan 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "A Peace or War Meeting?"]

[Text] The world has received with profound appreciation Iraq's approval of the U.S. proposal to have a meeting between the foreign ministers of Iraq and the United States on 9 January. Appreciation for the Iraqi position becomes greater given the fact that the U.S. proposal continues to reflect the same arrogance of power and attempts to dictate, and the same saber rattling.

It is feared that the current U.S. position will not move forward toward the resolution of the region's problems and that this position will continue to be the captive of political maneuvering and attempts to deceive world and U.S. opinion. It is also feared that the real motive behind this position is to obstruct the chances for peace and the expected European initiative.

What the U.S. Administration calls for implies that it is going to a war meeting rather than a peace meeting. This is because the prerequisites and elements for a peace meeting are absent from the U.S. proposal. Perhaps the most important missing element is the absence of mediators and witnesses, especially the United Nations, which has supervised the extinguishing of all regional hotbeds of tension, such as the Iraq-Iran war.

The United States will be able to deceive no one if the contents of the proposed meeting eschew the main pillar, which is to give the issues of the entire region the attention they deserve, and to abandon double standards in order to achieve peace and security in the region on an evenhanded and fair basis, especially for the Palestinians who are subject to the ugliest forms of repression and terrorism by the Israeli occupation.

Dialogue with guns on the table will automatically turn into a battle the responsibility for which will be lost amid the noise of fire. It has become evident to everybody that the United States is obstructing peace in the region because it knows only the language of warnings, threats, and discrimination, taking into account its desires and interests, not truth and justice.

It has also become evident that the language of pressure and intimidation does not work with Iraq and that Iraq holds to its principled stand on its rights and is ready to defend these rights no matter the cost. Through its famous initiative of 12 August 1990 which called for the termination of all occupations in the Middle East, including the brutal Israeli occupation, Iraq proved inexhaustible interest in peace based on fairness and justice.

Thus, we hope that the meeting planned for 9 January will be a meeting for dialogue and the beginning of

negotiations which should be witnessed by and contributed to by the Arabs, the United Nations, and the EC. We hope that the meeting will not be a trap or a pretext to go ahead with the aggression.

Badran Says Baker-'Aziz Meeting 'Positive'

JN0501140191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said he believes that the meeting to be held between Baker and 'Aziz in Geneva will have a positive impact, noting that there is a good basis for a peaceful approach following weeks of tension in the region. In a statement to our radio, Badran saw the world has become mentally ready to resolve the Palestinian question. He also stressed that this is the most appropriate time in the history of this question to achieve a just and peaceful solution to it. Badran said: The proposed meeting is a positive step in the right direction, which Jordan has always wished for while seeking political and peaceful solutions that are based on its conviction that war will have dire consequences for all.

On the other hand, Badran said that King Husayn's tour of a number of European capitals aims at preparing the atmosphere for a peaceful solution. He noted the positive points that were raised during the king's talks with British Prime Minister John Major. It is noteworthy that King Husayn, who is currently in London, will leave for Bonn on Monday, and then for Luxembourg, before arriving in Rome on Wednesday, where he will conclude his tour.

Information Minister Welcomes 'Aziz-Baker Talks

JN0501214491 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2013 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The Minister of Information Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din welcomed the 'Aziz-Baker talks, and expressed hope that the meeting will be fruitful.

In an interview with the British World Television News, WTN, Mr. 'Izz-al-Din voiced interest in a peaceful settlement based on international legitimacy and on solving all the region's problems using one standard:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified WTN reporter] Could you tell us your first reaction on the acceptance by the Iraqis of the offer by Baker to meet Tariq 'Aziz in Switzerland?

['Izz-al-Din] We are extremely happy to hear the news coming from Iraq that Minister 'Aziz is going to meet with Secretary Baker. It's very good news. It's something that we have to look forward to; and we hope that the meeting will take place, and it would be fruitful. It's something very good.

[WTN reporter] The three conditions for everybody that used to have [as heard], for example, of the Iraqi sanctions—it's got to be negotiations, and it's got to be linked to the Palestinian question—on the American side—they say no, it's withdrawal first, and then everything else—do you think they will be able to agree on anything?

['Izz-al-Din] You can't look at the problem in isolation, and you cannot only think of the Iraqis and the Americans. You have to think of other Arab initiatives. You have to think of what the Europeans are trying to do, what the nonaligned countries are trying to do. So everyone is moving in a direction to avert the possibility of a war and to concentrate on a peaceful settlement. So whether we call it negotiations, whether we call it a meeting—they are going to sit down and they have to talk—and to talk sense, both of them—and to avert the possibility of war, taking into consideration all these initiatives, I think when they sit down they have to take into consideration what the nonaligned countries are saying, what the Europeans are saying, what the Arabs are saying. So it is not only something between two countries. It is getting to be a little bit more complicated, I think.

[WTN reporter] Does this in reality avert the chances of war?

['Izz-al-Din] It is a great possibility, I think. One is encouraged by all these initiatives. De Cuellar, for instance, has offered to go Baghdad. He has been silent for quite a long time. As I said, the nonaligned countries are moving; and what is more prominent and what is more important is that France has given a very, let us say, open and very strong initiative. So all these things should be taken into consideration during the coming few days.

[WTN reporter] Is there any Jordanian input or initiative now that his majesty is in Europe at the moment, for instance?

['Izz-al-Din] We have been talking all through on one basic line—that we are interested in a peaceful settlement based on international legitimacy, based on a negotiated settlement, based on recognition that Iraq should not really be harmed, and based on giving one stand in relations to all conflicts in the area. These are four basic principles that Jordan has been, let us say, pushing and circulating all through the last four months. And I feel now that the Europeans are very close to this position. The nonaligned countries are very close to this position. So if somebody will concentrate on these four points, I think there will be a possibility of a peaceful settlement.

At the end of the day, all problems in the area should be dealt with one stick, with one measure. We should not, let us say, deal with the Middle East crisis in one measure and deal with the Gulf crisis in another measure. So I think these four elements have been now extremely well accepted by so many countries, specifically the Europeans. And we are very much interested in the European position now. [end recording]

Editorial Encourages Security Council Meeting

JN0601093291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Jan 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Giving Talks a Chance"]

[Text] The impending Baker-'Aziz talks in Geneva next Wednesday have generated renewed optimism that a breakthrough over the Gulf standoff could be in the offing. At the same time there is a growing flurry of diplomatic activity in many capitals, notably in the European Community countries, which offer to come to the rescue of the fledgling peace initiative should it become deadlocked.

But, even according to the most optimistic scenarios, there is no way that Iraq can meet the January 15 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council in its resolution 678. The international community must therefore be prepared for the worst yet hope for the best. The intertwined issues that the Gulf crisis has spawned cannot all be addressed in one meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his Iraqi counterpart Tariq 'Aziz. Even with the best intentions, there is little time left to deal with the multiplicity of Gulf-related issues that require urgent and careful attention and handling before a breakthrough can be realised. Over and above the security guarantees to Iraq in the event of it withdrawing from Kuwaiti territory, there are a host of matters that also need resolutions, such as the sanctions that are being imposed on Iraq. Washington now suggests that sanctions cannot be lifted even if Baghdad implements the Security Council resolutions on Kuwait unless and until Iraq disarms itself and until Israel once again regains the confidence that it is the sole regional power in the Middle East.

Under the circumstances, the council should be reconvened as the U.N. secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, has proposed recently to reflect on how to proceed next. Even if the Baker-'Aziz talks collapse and the 'Aziz-EC negotiations also fail, the council members need to assemble once again to decide on the following course of action. This is in essence what the U.N. secretary-general suggested Friday in New York. Security Council Resolution 678 allowing for the use of force against Iraq in the event it refuses to withdraw from Kuwait is not a self-executing resolution. It would require further action by the council members to put it into effect. As a matter of fact, such a meeting by the council must be held in the shortest possible time in order to give the major players in the crisis more breathing space to articulate a sensible solution to the explosive situation in the region. Meanwhile an embargo on bellicose statements from both sides should be strongly considered. As long as the antagonists continue to issue one threat after the other on the eve of the Geneva talks, there would be persistent fear that the promising dialogue could be doomed even before it begins. The better alternative is to work on building a more constructive atmosphere in order not to prejudge the outcome of the Iraqi-U.S. talks or the EC-Iraqi negotiations afterwards. All parties connected with the Gulf crisis should give these talks the benefit of the doubt and should work to make them succeed since all have agreed to conduct them in the first place.

U.S. Urged To Stop Searching Cargo Ships

JN0601135691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 Jan 91 p 6

[Article by Muhammad 'Asfur, chairman of the Federation of the Chambers of Commerce: "Al-'Aqabah Port and the U.S. Gendarme"]

[Text] Many countries' practices and behavior in support of democracy and international legitimacy are strange.

A few weeks ago, we spoke to U.S. officials at their embassy in Amman about the practices of the U.S. gendarme at the entrance to al-'Aqabah Port and we hoped that the interception of cargo ships passing through the Gulf of Aqaba would decrease as a result of this meeting.

We believed that the interception of ships stemmed merely from guesswork and illusions on the American side. We also believed that the Americans—after our meeting with them—had become convinced about the illegality of intercepting cargo ships crossing the Gulf of Aqaba and the inadmissibility of inspecting these ships or forcibly redirecting them on the pretext that a Jordanian merchant's name was on an American officer's list and that this merchant has goods on the intercepted ship.

Now, once again, we hear about interceptions and inspections; and once again we hear about the list carried by an American officer on a warship. The American officer charged with inspecting the ship—like Europe's popes in the Middle Ages when it was staggering in the darkness of ignorance and the law of the jungle—gives writs of forgiveness to merchants whose names are not on his list, and so the goods of those merchants enter the Gulf of Aqaba. Meanwhile, the merchants whose names are on the list, are excommunicated by this officer, who will put them out of business.

Needless to say, intercepting and inspecting ships are not only acts of aggression, but are also illegal. We are not trying to prove the illegality of the American gendarme's actions at the entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba, because these need no proof. We would like here to affirm to the U.S. Administration that these practices do not suit a country which calls itself a superpower, and such practices are rejected by the 20th century civilization. And a state that adopts a double-standard policy in dealing with international justice, views people and their issues with two standards, and is schizophrenic in tackling international crises cannot at all assume a leading position on the world map. It also cannot sit on the throne of contemporary civilization. Humanity has struggled throughout its long history to raise the level of mankind

and its dealings. And what we have attained in terms of intellectual, philosophical, economic, and social achievements should embody this view and translate into reality the humanity of mankind regardless of his position, race, or faith. It is really a great shock and retreat to see the country, which is supposed to protect the contemporary civilization, maintain its human dimensions, and is aware of the fact that justice should be the basis of dealing with people and their issues, is itself the root cause of economic, social, and political imbalance in the world.

So, intercepting a ship or searching its cargo are trivial matters, particularly when carried out by a country that claims to protect the international law and legitimacy. This is American schizophrenia that is rejected by the contemporary civilization because such a civilization can only be in harmony with itself in tackling the simplest human rights wherever man exists and regardless of his trade or work.

We here appeal once again to those in charge of the U.S. decisionmakimg to stop pursuing the cargo ships heading for the al- 'Aqaba Port and to stop intercepting and inspecting them. But if this is a form of punishment and the price we pay for the position we adopted, then we, in Jordan are united behind our great Hashemite leadership. We are confident that our view on solving the Gulf crisis within the Arab house through peaceful means is the solid ground and natural way to solve inter-Arab problems. We are neither raising slogans nor bargaining over a principle. We are underscoring a fact and consolidating constants which cannot be bypassed.

French, U.S. Ship Interception Policies Viewed

JN0601155791 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has learned that the Indian cargo ship Kota Singa was allowed to enter al-'Aqabah Port and unload its cargo of imports for Jordanian businessmen, after being intercepted by a French military cruiser in the Straits of Tiran. It was forced to stop for about three days to make sure that its cargo was destined for Jordan and not Iraq.

The shipping agent in Amman has said that it would be appreciated if the U.S., Spanish, and Greek forces, along with their allies, would adopt the same practice used by the commander of the French cruiser at this time in particular; more precisely, not preventing ships from entering al-'Aqabah Port or forcing them to unload their cargo in other ports; this is intended to afflict Jordanian businessman and citizens with additional economic burdens, as well as cordon off Jordan's only port.

He added: Although this is considered a violation of Jordanian sovereignty in principle, the war-type situation that is prevailing in the region imposes these obstacles on shipping.

The shipping agent added that he received cooperation from the French Embassy in Amman. He pointed out that this cooperation cannot be compared with what goes on at the U.S. Embassy in Amman when a U.S. warship intercepts any ship heading toward al-'Aqabah Port.

'Roundtable' Addresses Gulf Crisis, War Effects

JN0701080691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The following is the full text issued [of a statement] by the participants at the roundtable on the Gulf crisis held at the initiative of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan on Jan. 5:

At the invitation of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal, 48 statesmen, senior representatives of international organisations, and experts from various fields, gathered in Amman on January 5. Their objective at Crown Prince Hasan's "Roundtable," was to assess the Gulf crisis, and to examine the consequences of armed conflict in the region.

The roundtable participants included His Excellency Guido de Marco, the current minister of Malta. This one-day event was the first international event of its kind to be held in the region. Crown Prince Hasan had invited the roundtable participants to Amman because of his belief that the Gulf crisis had reached a point where innovative—and trans-national—thinking and recommendations were urgently needed to cope with the situation.

The roundtable participants stressed that the consequences of any crisis, but especially a protracted one, would be devastating in terms of human, economic, social and perhaps even environmental suffering. Jordan, which has already been hard hit by the crisis, would find itself in even greater economic and social peril.

Suffering has been generated widely in the region, and children have been among the first victims, according to a statement by UNICEF's regional representative. The Gulf crisis, according to UNICEF, has resulted in severe deterioration in nutritional levels, and conditions involving health and primary education, in Jordan particularly. Continuation of the crisis would inflict irreversible social and related damage on future generations, said UNICEF.

Moreover, UNICEF warned, the adverse impact on children and mothers would accelerate should hostilities break out in ther region. Already, almost two million third-country nationals have been forced to flee Kuwait and Iraq. They are faced with grave resettlement and economic problems in their countries of origin. If war broke out, the roundtable participants felt, almost two million additional people could leave Kuwait and Iraq, and they would enter Jordan.

It is hard to imagine how Jordan, already straining under the crushing economic burden of the Gulf crisis, could

cope with this additional burden without immediate and substantial aid, according to the roundtable participants.

The roundtable participants noted that so far international contributions to alleviate Jordan's burden—and suffering—have been discouraging. Only $12 million have been received by Jordan as reimbursement for the $55 million that it spent to assist the more than 850,000 third country evacuees who arrived in Jordan between August and November.

This shortfall was especially discouraging in light of the $30,000 per second that is being spent on the current military buildup.

The roundtable participants called for the establishment of a long-term fund that would foster regional economic and social stability. They suggested that a special United Nations emergency fund should be established meanwhile. In this context, the roundtable participants have taken note of the windfall profits from oil and arms sales during the crisis. Such a fund would ensure an equitable sharing of the economic burden of the Gulf crisis. The establishment of the emergency fund would also demonstrate international solidarity in the face of human suffering caused by the Gulf crisis, and it would contribute to the establishment of a truly stable new world order.

The roundtable participants expressed concern that while the U.N. Charter clearly envisages that effective remedies should be provided to countries that suffered because of their compliance with U.N. sanctions, such remedies have not been made available to Jordan.

The time has clearly come to fashion a "second generation" United Nations that would be equipped by member states with new means and a new mandate to properly face economic and social crises of the post cold war era, the roundtable participants said.

They expressed regret that events involving the Gulf crisis have been handled in a way that suggested that people did not matter.

But people do matter, the roundtable participants declared and nations of the world should respond accordingly when crisis occurred.

They said that it was appropriate that the roundtable was held in Amman since Jordan had been a major victim of the Gulf crisis. The roundtable participants noted the genuine spirit of international and humanitarian cooperation that Jordan had demonstrated during the crisis, especially concerning the plight of the hundreds of thousands of evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq.

Speaker, Former U.S. Official Discuss Crisis

JN0701093391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Jan 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat Sunday described the situation in the Middle East and the Gulf as most dangerous and critical and said that the peoples of the region are highly fearful of the outcome of a military conflict.

"The peoples of the region view the presence of military forces and foreign troops as constituting a real threat and serving as foreign military bases, not serving their interests," said 'Arabiyat at a meeting with Richard Murphy, former U.S. assistant secretary of state.

Murphy, who came here to take part in Saturday's roundtable conference at the invitation of His Royal Highness Prince Hasan, the Regent, reviewed with 'Arabiyat the present situation in the region and heard the House speaker call for urgent and courageous efforts to reach peace in the Gulf.

'Arabiyat said that "His Majesty the King is currently making a last ditch effort in Europe to save the region from catastrophic wars."

A statement following the meeting said that Murphy and 'Arabiyat had agreed on the need for extra efforts on the international arena to find a peaceful settlement within the Arab framework and with the assistance of friendly nations.

The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador to Jordan.

Meanwhile 'Arabiyat said Sunday that he had received a copy of deliberations of the fourth meeting of the Soviet Union's people's Assembly held last month. "The resolutions and final statement issued at the end of the meeting expressed deep concern over the development of the dangerous situation in the Gulf region and stressed the Soviet Union's support for peaceful solutions," 'Arabiyat said.

He said that the assembly's meeting demanded that the Soviet leadership and the Supreme Soviet remain in constant contact with the developments and back all efforts aiming at attaining a peaceful settlement.

UNGA Head Calls for International Conference

JN0601143991 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The president of the UN General Assembly [UNGA] called today for swift action to convene an international Middle East peace conference, saying worsening tension in the occupied territories was unacceptable.

Mr. Guido de Marco, the first General Assembly president to visit the occupied territories, told reporters at Amman airport after arriving from the occupied lands that the General Assembly cannot accept the situation there to worsen further than what it is at the moment. He said this is a strong plea to start working on this international conference on the Middle East. He added the sooner the UN starts working on it the better.

Mr. de Marco said the situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was marked by great tension and therefore, it was in the interest of the region and the world to find a settlement. The General Assembly voted

last month for holding such a conference and the Security Council has in principle agreed to the idea, which is fiercly opposed by Israel. The United States joined members of the Security Council yesterday in criticizing Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the territories. Mr. de Marco toured some Palestinian camps in the West Bank and Gaza and inspected the work of the UN Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA, which helps more than two million Palestinian refugees. He also met Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

Israeli troops shot and wounded 14 Arabs in the Gaza Strip on Thursday during Mr. de Marco's visit to the territories. Mr. de Marco, who is also Malta's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said his visit to the occupied territories aimed at highlighting the human dimension, the fundamental human rights, and the right to self-determination. He was met with little enthusiasm in Israel, which fears the international community may agree to Iraq's demand for an international peace conference on the Palestinian issue if the Gulf crisis is settled.

Mr. de Marco said one of his first recommendations as a result of his tour would be a stronger recognition of the work of the financially troubled UNRWA in the occupied areas. UNRWA offers medical treatment, education, and vocational training to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and to displaced Palestinians who were forced to flee to Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt after the 1948 and 1967 Middle East wars.

Badran Meets UN Envoy

JN0601184191 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran received in his office this morning Mr. Guido de Marco, president of the current UN General Assembly session and Maltese foreign minister. Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din, information minister and acting foreign minister; and Mr. Georgio Giacomilli, general commissioner of the UN Relief and Works Agency, attended the meeting. They discussed the situation in the occupied territories and the escalation there under Israeli occupation.

The prime minister and Mr. de Marco stressed the urgency of taking the necessary neasures to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East because the current tension and the suffering of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza tolerate no delay. The interests of the peoples of the Middle East and the world at large, moreover, require a just and comprehensive settlement of the problem.

Badran and de Marco welcomed the recent UN resolution calling for the holding of an international conference to solve the Palestine question as a step in the right direction. They expressed concern over the continued influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and the movement of some of them to the occupied Arab territories, which adds to the tension and necessitates swift moves to find solution to the Palestine question and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Foreign Minister Views Baker Message, Gulf

NC0501170391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] In remarks after his meeting with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today, U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker said that they exchanged views on a wide range of topics, particularly the situation in the Gulf. The ambassador expressed his wish to visit all the Lebanese areas soon.

Ambassador Crocker conveyed a message from Secretary of State James Baker congratulating the foreign minister on his new post. The message says in part: Your new position under the current circumstances makes it incumbent upon you to shoulder responsibilities and face challenges during the next months given the present determination, more than at any previous time, to restore peace and achieve the national accord in Lebanon.

In his message, the secretary of state said: The progress made within the framework of the al-Ta'if accord over the past few months gives rise to optimism. Secretary Baker stressed that the U.S. Government continues to strongly support Lebanon's independence, unity, and sovereignty as well as the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanese territory.

Foreign Minister Buwayz said that his talks with Ambassador Crocker dealt with the army deployment in the south. He said that the current situation is different from that of the past. Buwayz added that the U.S. ambassador expressed complete support for and response to the Lebanese state's desire for reunion.

Buwayz answered unidentified reporters' questions after the meeting.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] The previous government asked the ambassadors of the big powers, including the U.S. ambassador, to support the army's deployment in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Did Ambassador Crocker ask for patience?

[Buwayz] The situation today is completely different from past situations. We now have a national decision and a minimum of national unity on this issue. We have a unified army that could enter this region if there is an international cover for this entry. Therefore, I believe that the current circumstances are completely different.

[Reporter] Has Ambassador Crocker advised us to be patient or has he encouraged the deployment?

[Buwayz] There are several factors which may be [word indistinct]. We cannot say that U.S. advice calls for patience or for an immediate entry into the region. There are several circumstances which should be made available in advance.

[Reporter] There have been reports that the U.S. ambassador tried to patch up differences between the Lebanese Forces and Phalangists on the one hand and with the government on the other. Is that true?

[Buwayz] Actually, I did not discuss this particular issue with his excellency the ambassador. I know that the ambassador expressed his support for and response to [words indistinct].

[Reporter] The UN forces' mandate expires at the end of this month. Will the Lebanese request to renew the mandate this time be different, given the cabinet's decision to send the army to the south and areas in Western al-Biqa'?

[Buwayz] Although the two issues seem to be linked, the issue of renewing the UN forces' mandate under the current circumstances is completely independent from the army's entry into Western al-Biqa' and Iqlim al-Tuffah. The state's stand is firm on the extension of the UN forces' mandate and I do not believe that this issue will affect the other. [end recording]

Lebanese Forces Criticize Al-Hirawi, Government

NC2912181890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] Amid reports about contacts among the circles of the Lebanese Forces-Phalangist Party camp, and about another meeting of the ministers who responded to Ja'ja's call for yesterday's meeting in al-Kaslik, this camp has escalated its crusade against the government, the Syrian role, and the peace process.

The Lebanese Forces media cited their sources as threatening to turn again into an anti-Syrian regional force should the pressure on it continue. A source in the Lebanese Forces threatened to use all means and said that al-Hirawi is unable to face up to the resolutions, which made him a mere party, just like the other parties in the new government.

[The Lebanese Forces mouthpiece, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic, at 1645 GMT on 29 December states: "A responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has said that intentions alone are not enough to accomplish Lebanon's independence. Rather, the source added, these intentions must be translated into establishing independent national institutions enjoying independent decisionmaking so that an indepedent stand and free resolutions will emerge from these institutions.

["The source asked: When our new Constitution is abridged into a government and a one-color government is formed, how can independence materialize in the presence of a nonindependent majority in this government?

["He said: Major and minor authorities and new and veteran ministers began to speak today of the logic of the majority within the government and say that the al-Ta'if accord represents this. Therefore, we ask: Where has this one-color majority come from? How can a reconciliation

materialize through a majority that has been appointed outside the reconciliation framework?

["The Lebanese Forces responsible source concluded by saying: This is not a reconciliation government, and reconcilaition has nothing to do with it. The al-Ta'if Accord government and the al-Ta'if Accord have nothing to do with it either. This government is concerned with its parties, not Lebanon."]

Call for 'Another' Government

NC0301132091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Jan 91

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has stressed that the current government has nothing to do with the accord, which is a meeting of two wills. In this government there is only one will, one group, and one color, so how could one group achieve accord with itself?

The source added that the government has come to impose a certain opinion away from the framework of dialogue and its known principles. Thus it constitutes a state of rebellion against national accord.

The Lebanese Forces source concluded by saying that if the slogan of this government is national reconciliation, let its work be confined toward that end and let it not be tasked with the burdens of all the major and fateful decisions. Let the reconciliation be separated from what the government will decide regarding the accord. We, the Lebanese Forces, do not object to achieving reconciliation within the government. But let there be another government that could continue the march of accord after the reconciliation is achieved by the current government in one, two, or three sessions, unless the objective is to pass major and serious decisions under the slogan and cover of reconciliation.

Respond to Karami's Statement

NC0401201191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Excerpts] A responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has responded to Prime Minister 'Umar Karami's statement to REUTER.

The source said: First, it is very objectionable for Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, the head of a self-styled government of national accord, to speak as if he were a party to a dispute instead of someone in a position of responsibility and to declare that the party that is boycotting the government is responsible for the war and destruction in Lebanon and that it needs a certificate of exoneration. [passage omitted]

The source added: Second, saying that accepting any of the demands of the Lebanese Forces and Phalangist Party harms the al-Ta'if agreement and makes it meaningless does not conform to the facts because the al-Ta'if agreement was circumvented when this government was formed. The government's lack of balance, its failure to reflect the nature and size of the basic forces in the country, the fact that it was formed despite prior objections and warnings, and the rejection it encountered even before its birth—all this contravenes the spirit of the al-Ta'if agreement, which is based on dialogue, consultations, and agreement among the basic Lebanese forces. [passage omitted]

To Disregard Government Decisions

NC0701082291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has emphasized to AL-DIYAR that the Lebanese Forces will not recognize any decision made by the new government should it win the vote of confidence on Wednesday. The source added that this is because this government was not formed on the basis of national accord as outlined in the al-Ta'if agreement, and therefore any decision made by this government concerning the al-Ta'if agreement will not be recognized. The methods of opposition will be democratic and political, he added.

The source added: We were convinced of the need to contribute toward consolidating the accord, establishing good relations with everybody, and implementing the al-Ta'if agreement to the letter, but some people are violating this agreement and its spirit. Thereupon, Ministers Samir Ja'ja', Michel Sasin, and George Sa'adah will not take part in this government before one of the formulas previously proposed and yet to be approved by the parties concerned, is worked out, particularly regarding the principles of seeking conciliation instead of deciding by vote and the need for prior agreement on the government's program. The source added: They [not further specified] even hint every now and then that other ministers could be appointed to replace Ministers Ja'ja', Sa'adah, and Sasin. Regarding issues related to living conditions and the discharge of the state's affairs, there is no problem, the souce added.

Fadlallah Criticizes U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon

NC0501130991 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has called for the fortification of the local arena and for dispatching the army to the South. He also attacked the U.S. ambassador. He said: We must fortify our arena in order not to get involved in new wars instigated by secret services which act on the basis of world arrogance's plans. The issue is that Lebanon is the arena where all parties are acting.

He added: What we have noticed is that the ambassadors in Lebanon, particularly those from the big states, are acting as if they are the custodians of Lebanon. We have noticed that when U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker arrived in Lebanon, he was hailed and given a reception

more distinctive than that given to the other ambassador. People talk about him, and what he says determines whether people should be optimistic or pessimistic. He is like the high commissioner, distributing pessimism and optimism about the future. 'Allamah Fadlallah said: The Iqlim al-Tuffah issue was proceeding well. But when the U.S. ambassador arrived, the issue was frozen because the American blessing, which harmonizes with the Israeli blessing, wanted that.

He asked: What authority is this which proposes to extend its powers to all Lebanese areas and does not enter an area of its territory unless Israel agrees while we celebrate independence every year?

U.S. Said Delaying Army Dispatch to Iqlim

NC0701073191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] AL-SAFIR has reported that in the past few days responsible circles have received U.S. diplomatic advice on the need to delay dispatching the Army to Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Israeli Air Raids Reported in Al-Biqa', Sidon

Al-Biqa' Hit 5 Jan

NC0501081291 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Security sources have reported that Israeli warplanes carried out a raid in the southern al-Biqa' valley at dawn today. The sources gave no further details.

Clashes, Shelling Reported

NC0501084591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] In western al-Biqa', five artillery shells fell on the Jisr al-Dallafah area at 1820 yesterday. The shells were fired from al-Ahmadiyah. Six other shells fell near Zillaya.

A Zionist patrol made up of a Merkava tank and an infantry unit clashed for ten minutes with a group of the Palestinian resistance near al-Ahmadiyah last night. Afterwards, enemy troops positioned in al-Ahmadiyah searched the area and shelled the al-Litani River banks and al-Na'imah. Two helicopters assisted in the search operations. Meanwhile, the resistance traded artillery shelling with the enemy, who sustained heavy casualties as a result.

Helicopters Attack Resistance

NC0501092091 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Security sources in the South have reported that today Israeli helicopters attacked resistance positions in al-Qulay'ah village, about two km north of the border strip. A spokeswoman from the Israeli occupation army claimed, however, that Israel did not carry out an air raid in southern Lebanon today.

AFP Details Raid

NC0501104791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Two Israeli Cobra helicopters raided a Hizballah position south of the western al-Biqa' valley at dawn today. AFP reported that the raid lasted about 90 minutes and caused no casualties.

Security sources said that the raid targeted resistance positions in al-Qulay'ah, about two km north of the border strip.

A spokeswoman for the Israeli occupation forces said that Israel did not conduct an air raid in southern Lebanon today.

In another development, AFP cited the Lahd militia radio as admitting this morning that an attack with automatic weapons took place last night against an Israeli patrol near Kawkaba, east of the occupied border strip. The radio said that in the wake of this attack, Israeli artillery shelled 'Ayn al-Tinah, Qilya, and Zillaya.

Israelis Claimed Dead, Wounded

NC0501131591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] A group from the resistance front today attacked a mechanized patrol of the Israeli occupation troops near Kawkaba with rockets and machine guns. A statement by the Islamic Resistance [as heard] said the attack left four Israeli soldiers killed and four others wounded.

The radio of the [Antoine Lahd] militias admitted the operation and said that after the operation, the Israeli artillery shelled the villages of 'Ayn al-Tinah, Qilya, and Zillaya.

Hizballah Denies 5 Jan Raid

NC0601090291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Six Zionist invaders were killed in an attack two days ago on the Zionist occupation posts near Tallat al-Ahmadiyah in Western al-Biqa' by the unit of the martyrs of the al-Aqsa massacre.

Meanwhile, yesterday a responsible Hizballah source denied media reports about a Zionist air raid on a Hizballah position in the al-Qulay'ah area. The source said the report was absolutely untrue and noted that al-Qulay'ah is under the control of the Zionist occupation forces.

Sidon Villages Raided 6 Jan

NC0601082691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Six Israeli Skyhawk Aircraft raided positions in the Majdalyun, 'Alman, and al-Salihiyah villages in eastern Sidon at 0900 today, causing human losses.

Air Raid Targets PFLP Post

NC0601091391 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Six Israeli warplanes carried out raids on positions in Majdalyun, 'Alman, and al-Salihiyah, in Eastern Sidon this morning.

According to security sources, the raids, which were carried out in stages, targeted a post held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The sources added that five people have been wounded. The Israeli planes are still flying over the South.

Israelis Continue Overflights

NC0601101991 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a statement today, the Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] said four Israeli warplanes twice raided the al-Salihiyah area in Eastern Sidon at 0908 today, destroying a building completely and causing four injuries. The NPO statement added that the Israeli aircraft continued their flights until 1000 and that they drew antiaircraft fire.

Meanwhile, the Israeli aircraft broke the sound barrier over the capital and the mountain at approximately 1130.

[Paris AFP in English at 0948 GMT on 6 January in a Sidon-datelined report adds, "A Palestinian militant was killed and four others wounded in southern Lebanon on Sunday in an Israeli air raid against a base of a member group of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, according to a partial toll announced by hospital sources. "The raid was carried out by four fighter-bombers which launched guided missiles during two passes against the base of the People's [as received] Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in al-Salihiyah, five kilometers (three miles) east of Sidon. "The base, a two-story building, was completely destroyed by the raid."]

Israelis Reinforce Positions

NC0701083891 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Reports on security in the South say that Israel is continuing to mass troops inside the security belt.

According to Lebanese security sources, Israel recently installed launching pads for long-range surface-to-surface missiles in several areas in the South. Israel also brought personnel carriers and tanks into some villages and established new military posts and a number of checkpoints to search travelers.

PFLP Official Comments

NC0601104391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to security reports, the Israeli raid this morning targeted a garage for vehicle repairs belonging to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Lieutenant Colonel Abu-Ghalib, the Front's military official in the South, said that the enemy aircraft fired 16 missiles, six of which did not explode. He said that this raid is part of the continued war between Israel and the resistance. He added: The raid was no surprise to us because the enemy's policy, which is hostile and unchanged, aims to destroy the Palestinian revolution's positions and institutions. This policy will not deter us from continuing to deal blows to the enemy as our heroes did in Shab'a and as the heroic resistance fighters are doing. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Protests

NC0701093091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] Israeli warplanes have been flying over Sidon and the South since 1000 today.

In another development today, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz gave instructions to Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, Lebanon's permanent delegate to the United Nations, to file a complaint with the Security Council against yesterday's Israeli raids on Eastern Sidon.

Reportage on Egyptian Transport Minister's Visit

Shipping Line Inaugurated

JN0601151991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Latakia—The Egyptian ship, al-Jaza'ir, arrived in Latakia Port this morning on the first voyage marking the opening of a maritime shipping line between Latakia and Alexandria. Aboard the ship was Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, Egyptian minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, transport officials, and journalists. They received an official and popular welcome.

Receiving Engineer Mutawalli and his delegation was Transport Minister Engineer Yusuf al-Ahmad; comrade Dr. Muhsin al-Khayyir, secretary of the Party branch; Latakia Governor Hasan Shahwan; Dr. Mustafah 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, Egypt's ambassador in Damascus; Ministry of Transport officials; and a huge crowd of citizens.

In a statement to the SANA correspondent in Latakia, Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli expressed his great joy over the arrival of the first ship on the line between Alexandria and Latakia. He said: This gives credibility to the decisions taken by the ministries of transport in the two countries.

The Egyptian transport minister noted the agreement between the two ministries of transport on maritime transportation cooperation establishes direct shipping lines between the ports of the two countries and sets up joint companies to transport passengers and goods.

Transport Minister Yusuf al-Ahmad said that the shipping line is the first fruit of the joint Egyptian-Syrian committee meetings held in Cairo last month. He said the ministries of transport in the two countries had acted very quickly to strengthen bonds of friendship and cooperation. He added that inaugurating the shipping line today adds a new layer to joint action between the two countries and represents the return of the genuine relations that existed between them in the past.

Engineer Yusuf al-Ahmad said that the feelings the Syrian Arab people showed while receiving their brothers from Egypt are an honest expression of the true feelings of the Syrian Arab people toward their brothers the Egyptian Arab people. He added that we are very happy—myself and my colleague the Egyptian transport minister—to have executed the directives of presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak into tangible realities.

Al-Ahmad Meets Prime Minister

JN0501195691 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in English 1900 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The Prime Minister Mr. Mahmud al-Zu'bi has received the Egyptian Minister of Communications and Naval Transport Mr. Sulayman Mutawalli. The meeting was attended by the Minister of Transport Mr. Yusuf al-Ahmad and the Egyptian ambassador to Damascus.

Mr. Mutawalli conveyed to Mr. al-Zu'bi the greetings and best wishes of the Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. The discussions during the meeting revolved around the relations between the two sisterly countries and the activities of the higher Syrian-Egyptian Committee.

Holds Talks on Cooperation

JN0601192391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 5 Jan 90

[Text] This evening, Engineer Yusuf al-Ahmad, Minister of Transportation, and Eng. Sulayman Mutawalli, the Egyptian Arab Republic's minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, held a round of talks in the conference hall at the Transportation Ministry.

Attending for the Syrian Arab side were the transportation minister's assistants and directors of companies and institutions of the ministry. For Egypt, the session was attended by Mustafah 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi, ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Damascus, and the delegation accompanying the minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport.

During the session, Eng. Yusuf al-Ahmad welcomed the visiting minister and his delegation to Syria. He said that the meeting was part of efforts to boost fraternal Syrian-Egyptian relations, whose bases were laid down by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak to serve mutual interests and achieve the higher pan-Arab objectives of the Arab nation.

For his part, Eng. Sulayman Mutawalli expressed his and his delegation's happiness with the hospitality they received in Arab Syria. He added: We are determined to achieve the objectives set forth by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak—objectives that satisfy the wishes of the two countries and the interests of the Arab nation.

Afterward, the two sides reviewed issues pertaining to cooperation in various fields of transportation and the measures needed to deepen and expand this cooperation.

Departs 6 Jan

JN0601192791 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Damascus, 6 Jan (SANA)—Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli, Egyptian minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport, left Damascus this morning following a two-day visit to Syria. During the visit he led the Egyptian delegation to the celebrations to inaugurate the maritime transport line between Latakia and Alexandria.

He was seen off at Damascus international airport by Transportation Minister Eng. Yusuf Ahmad, senior ministry employees, and Egyptian Ambassador in Damascus Mustafa 'Abd-al-'Aziz Mursi.

Papers Demand 'Unconditional Iraqi Withdrawal'

JN0301192491 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Jan 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Pan-Arab Endeavor and Sparing the Region the Calamities of War," AL-BA'TH says in its editorial: With the beginning of the new year, it can be said that the countdown for the Gulf crisis has begun, counting the days left until the deadline set by the UN Security Council for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Speculations might differ on the outcome of the crisis and the means to end it. These speculations range between a military solution and a political one. However, it is clear that efforts are centered on sparing the region the danger of war and also on preventing bloodshed. And here lies the importance of the role of Syria, which has drawn attention to these dangers since the first moments of the catastrophic invasion.

The paper adds: Syria has stated that the invasion has caused grave damage to the Arabs and specifically to the Palestine question and the Iraqi people in particular. That is why leader al-Asad took the initiative to call for the Cairo emergency summit that passed pan-Arab resolutions whose first and foremost objective was to save the Iraqi people and protect the Palestine question from any danger, especially the danger of immigration, which is no less serious than the dangers created by the defeat [of 1948]. When Iraq refused to respond favorably to the pan-Arab appeal, the crisis entered the international arena.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: With the approach of the deadline set for an Iraqi withdrawal, Arab and international efforts have begun to intensify to achieve a peaceful solution. It is only natural that the fraternal Arabs take the initiative of working to remedy the situation through intensifying the consultations that have gone on among Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt on the one hand and among Syria, Egypt, and the Libyan Jamahiriyah on the other. That is because Syria, through the panoramic perspective of leader al-Asad regarding the impending dangers posed to our nation, responds favorably to any call for any Arab meeting intended to save the Iraqi people and spare the region the calamities of war.

In the "AL-THAWRAH Issues" column, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH tackles the same issue and says: The crisis created by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait has always been and remains an inter-Arab crisis despite the various dimensions that it has assumed on various regional and international levels, in spite of its dangerous repercussions, and in spite of the possible catastrophic consequences if a proper solution to this crisis is not attained in time.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH adds: From the first moments of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, Syria has been cautioning and warning of the seriousness of this new pan-Arab concern and of the consequent fragmentation of Arab efforts. In addition, Syria also warned of the weakening of Arab solidarity—which had been about to be restored before the invasion, after having suffered numerous setbacks throughout the past decade. There were several reasons for these setbacks, some of which concern Iraq's obstructionist positions that hampered the march of joint Arab action in the face of the challenges and conspiracies facing the Arab nation, foremost among which is the conspiracy of the influx of Jewish immigrants into the occupied Arab territories to settle there at the expense of the existence of the Palestinian Arab individual and his natural rights to live and exercise his right to self-determination on his national soil.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria is still determined to continue consultations with Arab brothers to find a solution to the crisis brought about by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. This is because it believes that any solution must take into account the Arab stance, which is in harmony with all other positions that say the major condition for any solution lies in the unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Vice President Receives Lebanese Chamber Speaker

JN0501200991 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1900 today Mr. Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. Talks centered on the steps that have already been taken regarding the national reconciliation accord and the measures the Lebanese Government is enacting to implement the remainder of this accord.

They also reviewed the situation in the region in general and the Gulf crisis in particular, in addition to bilateral relations and the scope for their development.

Afghanistan

Foreign Ministry Criticizes Pakistan's Yaqub Khan

LD0501214991 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The Foreign Ministry spokesman has made the following statement about the remark made in the Pakistani parliament on 2 January by Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan.

Yaqub Khan's statement clearly establishes that the government of Pakistan has not yet given up its interventionist and aggressive policy and has determined to fan the fire of fighting and bloodshed in our country.

Yaqub Khan is trying hypocriticaly to cloak this inhumane policy of his government with words of political solution, moral assistance, accord among Afghans, etc. However, today all know the clear fact that the Government of Pakistan is the main obstacle to a political solution from Afghanistan's problems and to an accord among Afghans, while it increasingly broadens the extent of its violation of the Geneva Accords

The Government of Pakistan has so far only viewed these credible international accords as a springboard for its intervention and its policy of open violation.

Yaqub Khan knows very well that solving our country's problems is not possible by military means or by the continuation of war. He therefore embarks on blatant boasting and excessive talking. His statement, from top to bottom, is devoid of responsibility and realism, and demonstrates that the Government of Pakistan wants to take advantage of current international involvement with Gulf affairs. While having no faith in its [word indistinct] policy also shift its efforts in the framework of a dominating and warmongering policy.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added:

Relying on the experience gained in years of independent defense of the country, we have said many times, and say again, that the issue of Afghanistan can be solved not by the irresponsible statements of others but by dialogue and talks between Afghans themselves and the cessation of foreign interference. This is the general determination of Afghans. If its realization takes place, with difficulties, it is, in the first place, because of foreign sabotage and because of the interventionist and aggressive policy of Pakistan. [sentence as heard]

The Afghanistan Armed Forces and the country's patriots can stand decisively against all aggressive and foreign intervention, and heroically defend their homeland, territorial integrity, and national sovereignty. The people of Afghanistan hope that existing realities in the Republic of Afghanistan prove the futility of Pakistan trying to impose a military solution. Considering the positive inclination and favorable changes in the international arena for understanding, the government of Mr. Nawaz Sharif this time must look at Afghanistan issues with open and realistic eyes, unlike Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, the foreign minister of this government, who always treated the Afghanistan issue with blind eyes. However, the recent statement by Sahabzada Yaqub Khan indicates that the Government of Pakistan continues, as before, the irresponsible, unrealistic and [word indistinct] policy against Afghanistan, against the will of the people of Afghanistan, peace and security in the region.

Kabul Officials Meet Hekmatyar Party

BK2412115790 Lahore THE NATION in English 24 Dec 90 p 8

[From "Our Correspondent"]

[Text] Quetta—The outgoing Afghan diplomat Mira Jan Gharwal has confirmed the reported meeting between the representatives of Kabul regime and Hezb-e-Eslami (Hikmatyar Group) which, according to him, held twice in Iraq [as published] on the request of Hezb-e-Eslami.

He disclosed this while talking to a group of newsmen on a reception, hosted by Arbab Zahir Khan Kasi, General Secretary ANP [Awami National Party] Balohistan, at latter's residence on Sunday. While giving the background of meetings, he said, these meetings were arranged by Abu Khalid, PLO's envoy based at Baghdad. He also disclosed and confirmed the meetings of Afghan President, Dr. Najibullah, with other warring factions of Mujahidin, during the former's visit to Geneva.

When asked about the groups of Mujahidin willing to solve problems on political grounds rather than by waging war, the Afghan diplomat did not reveal the names of warring groups. About reconciliatory efforts being made with Iran, he said, on his way back to home from Geneva, President Najibullah held negotiations with the officials of Tehran. When asked about the nature of talks, he denied to give the details.

Commentary Criticizes Gulbuddin's Sincerity

LD2712071890 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0428 GMT 27 Dec 90

[Commentary by BAKHTAR political observer: "Gulbuddin a Drawback of Peaceful Solution"]

[Text] Kabul, Dec. 26 BAKHTAR Developments occurred in relation to the situation of Afghanistan recently, clearly show that with the exception of extremists, all Afghans including moderate oppositions support political solution of the Afghan problem.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) so far has set forth more than 30 proposals for the ensurance of peace and has resorted to all possibilities for maintaining intra-Afghan understandings.

But, it is clear to all Afghans and the world people that such peaceful measures of the RA were stubbornly rejected by the opposition.

According to the local and international political circles since the past 12 years, specially after the announcement of the national reconciliation policy in 1987, the opposition have not shown any tendency for the restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

For instance, Gulbuddin, one of the notorious opposition heads, has blatantly and shamelessly said during an interview with the so-called radio of "Free Afghanistan" that he would continue the military way of solution for the Afghan issue. Such irresponsible words represent nothing but imposition of his self-made decision and that of the Pakistani militarists on the Afghans. The Western mass media has reported recently Gulbuddin is one of the close associates of the Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan and with the support of the U.S. Mafia and Pakistani militarists produces and smuggles narcotics.

Strict information available says that the majority of the long- range rockets fired on the provincial cities and on Kabul are organised by the Gulbuddin men.

Suffice it to say that it were [as received] the extremists who lauched their massive attacks on Jalalabad and promised Pakistan that under the formation of a confederation with Pakistan, they will annex Afghanistan and Pakistan as it's 5th soba (state). After the visit of Najibullah, president of the RA, to Geneva and his meetings with the opposition personalities and activists there, Gulbuddin considered starting of such talks with the RA state as a treachery to the cause of jihad "holy war" and warned those held such talks to bear eventuality of their actions. [sentence as received]

This action immediately revealed that the aim of this heinous words was to disturb the process of the sound climate created for intra-Afghan talks. It is interesting to say here that he himself has referred to conduct talks for several times with the RA Government. If he is honest to his speeches, then he himself has committed such a treachery to the jihad.

*Najibullah Ready to Forfeit Power to Zahir Shah

91AS0305M London KEYHAN in Persian 6 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] The reporter of INDEPENDENT (published in London) revealed in his last report from Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, that Dr. Najibullah, the president of Afghanistan, is prepared to resign his position provided Mohammad Zahir Shah, the former king of Afghanistan, takes over the affairs of the country in the transitional period. Dr. Najibullah, in negotiations with the representatives of the former king of Afghanistan two weeks ago in Geneva, announced to some of the moderate Mujahidin leaders his willingness to step down.

According to this report, the Mujahidin sources emphasized that Dr. Najibullah had first demanded to stay in the country, commanding the armed forces and heading the Watan Party. But the representatives of Mohammad Zahir Shah did not accept this proposal. At this stage of the negotiations, the president of Afghanistan agreed to leave the country to Mohammad Zahir Shah and leave Afghanistan. But he demanded the implementation of three conditions for the transitional period:

- That those close to him be allowed to leave Afghanistan without any problems.
- That the Army of Afghanistan be preserved and no revenge be taken against the Army.
- That no power vacuum be created during the transitional period.

Dr. Najibullah has also asked that any agreement concerning the future of Afghanistan be guaranteed by the United States, the Soviet Union, Iran, Pakistan, and the United Nations.

At the present time, the officials of the government of Afghanistan are studying the new circumstances created by the Geneva negotiations between Dr. Najibullah and Mohammad Zahir Shah. The INDEPENDENT report indicates that both the government of the Soviet Union and Dr. Najibullah are interested in transferring power to Mohammad Zahir Shah and not to the Afghan Mujahidin. Moderate Afghan Mujahidin groups agree to the return of Mohammad Zahir Shah to Afghanistan, but extremist groups, such as the Gulbuddin Hikmatyar group, have not yet acquiesced.

In the transitional period in Afghanistan, nation-wide elections are supposed to be held to decide the future of Afghanistan. According to REUTERS from Peshawar, these elections will probably take place next spring. The Afghan Mujahidin have already invited the heads of the tribes and those who must participate in the Afghan parliament to assemble in Peshawar three days before the new year next year (18 March). The duty of the parliament is to elect a government that will govern the country during the elections.

At the present time, due to the bad economic conditions in the Soviet Union, sending foodstuff and arms valued at $130 million per month has stopped, and the shortage of arms and foodstuff has forced the government of Afghanistan to make compromises which could result in the return of Mohammad Zahir Shah.

The government of the Islamic Republic has not yet indicated any reaction to the new conditions in Afghanistan, but it does not appear that at the present time it would seriously oppose the return of Mohammad Zahir Shah.

Two weeks ago, Sheikh Mohammad Hoseyn Sadeq Nili, the general military commander of the Islamic Unity Party, who was accompanied by his three-year-old son, was assassinated by two members of the rival group opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Islamic Unity Party is a coalition of Afghan groups stationed in Iran and supports the Islamic Republic regime. The killing of Sheikh Mohammad Sadeq Nili is

blamed on the extremist Afghan Mujahidin groups which have angered the Islamic regime.

Bangladesh

AFP Reports Fears of Election Violence

BK0401051491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0454 GMT 4 Jan 91

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 4 (AFP)—A wave of lawlessness sweeping Bangladesh less than two months ahead of parliamentary elections has triggered fears here that allies of the ousted president could be trying to sabotage the crucial polls.

During the past week there have been three prison revolts, a number of politically motivated murders, at least two bids to assassinate prominent student leaders, arsons, hijackings and unrest among some workers.

In addition, a local newspaper was attacked and one of its reporters threatened following a report about a political figure.

Bangladesh's political leaders have warned the public to be alert against conspiracies aimed to force postponement of the February 27 elections, the first since former President Mohammad Hussain Ershad was ousted on December 6.

"Some unholy cliques are active to destroy the much sought-after people's victory against autocracy," said Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the dominant Awami League. "They are those groups who have no place among the people and survive on lies."

Her main rival in the polls, Begum Khaleda Zia, said, "we are getting feelers about a conspiracy against elections and people must foil such attempts."

The liasion committee of Bangladesh's three major political alliances also warned the public to resist any move to sabotage the elections, urging them to be wary of "defeated autocratic forces and close collaborators of the Ershad regime."

A political analyst said that if the violent incidents of the past several days are linked, they could be the work of elements which stand to gain little from the elections.

"The situation is volatile as well as complex because all major political parties, including the Jatiya Party (JP) of ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, want to run in the polls," one analyst said.

But another analyst said that if anything went wrong with the planned elections, the JP would benefit the most, since the interim government and former opposition parties would be discredited.

"You never know, people might just say to hell with democracy and let there be peace, even with the JP back in power," a senior political commentator said.

The elections to the country's fifth parliament in 19 years of independence will be the first held under a caretaker government.

"It's a straight fight to regain power as all three—the Awami League, the BNP and the JP—are former ruling parties and will leave no stone unturned to come out successful," an analyst said.

The JP's announcement this week that it would contest the polls, despite the fact that many of the party's former ministers and MPs are in hiding to avoid prosecution on corruption charges, raised fears that the elections would be dangerously confrontational.

Within hours of the JP announcement, the All Party Students Unity (APSU), which played a major role in bringing down the Ershad government, announced it would resist any attempt to reactivate the ousted ruling party.

"The student community along with people will resist those who helped establish autocracy in the country through the destruction of all democratic institutions," the APSU said.

Analysts also speculated that the JP, facing the spectre of political extinction following its fall from power, would use any means possible to score election gains.

Students To Attempt To Bar Ershad From Politics

BK0501094491 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] In Bangladesh, the Dhaka university students said they will launch a nationwide campaign next week to bar ousted President Ershad from politics. This follows General Ershad's Jatiya Party's announcement of its intention to compete in the 27 February parliamentary elections.

Students Attack Former Prime Minister's Office

BK0501131291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1235 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 5 (AFP)—Some 100 students Saturday attacked and burned part of the head office of a pharmaceuticals firm owned by a former prime minister of Bangladesh's ousted president, Hussain Muhammad Ershad, police said.

Students ransacked and partly burned the ground floor of the offices of Pioneer Pharmaceutical Industry owned by former Premier Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and also damaged several company vehicles, police said.

The attack comes one day after the powerful All Party Students Unity warned it would not permit a revival of Mr. Ershad's Jatiya Party (JP) or let it contest February

27 parliamentary elections. JP members were asked to submit their nomination papers Saturday.

Mr. Chowdhury, acting JP president, announced Tuesday that his party would contest the elections. He was dropped from Mr. Ershad's cabinet in March, 1988.

Mr. Ershad stepped down as president on December 6 after mass demonstrations against his eight-year-old regime.

Ershad VP Petitions Against Detention Order

BK0401064891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0601 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 4 (AFP)—Moudud Ahmed, vice president under ousted Bangladeshi leader Hussain Mohammad Ershad, is mounting a legal challenge to his 120-day detention order, court sources said Friday.

They said a senior lawyer had filed a writ of habeas corpus on his behalf with a high court bench Wednesday, adding that Mr. Ahmed has called his detention "illegal" in the petition.

Mr. Ahmed, a senior barrister himself, was arrested December 20 under the 1974 Special Powers Act which allows detention without charge. He is the first member of the ousted regime to file a petition against the government action.

The sources said the court had accepted the petition but had not yet set a date for hearing it.

Informed sources said Mr. Ershad, also under house arrest, was working on a similar petition.

The former president has been charged with corruption and misuse of power.

However sources said the interim government of acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed was processing papers for a new ordinance to supersede the Special Powers Act, to avoid problems originating from such petitions.

A deputy prime minister and home minister in Mr. Ershad's cabinet, Shah Moazzem Hossain and retired General Mahmudul Hasan respectively, have also been put under arrest.

Meanhwile, newspaper reports said Friday that the Bangladesh authorities have asked the country's high commission (embassy) in New Delhi to verify press reports there that several wanted former ministers had taken refuge in neighbouring India.

Security Up for U.S., Saudi, Kuwaiti Embassies

BK0401155791 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] The government has increased security for the embassies of the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait fearing sabotage in the event of a Gulf war. News agency UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH] quotes foreign adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed as saying that the government will act firmly to deal with sabotage or any terrrorist activities against foreign nations. The foreign adviser said it is a normal diplomatic practice to provide additional security to missions of the countries which get involved in a conflict like that in the Gulf.

India

Iraqi Foreign Minister on Official Visit

Shekhar Meets Minister

BK0401161291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] India has urged Iraq and the United States to agree to an early date for talks in resolving the Gulf crisis. The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, told the visiting Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, in New Delhi today that the crisis is reaching a point of no return. In view of the disastrous consequences of war in the Gulf and the anxiety prevailing all over the world, both Iraq and the United States should quickly agree for an early date for negotiations on the issue.

Later, addressing a press conference, the visiting Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, said Baghdad is ready for negotiations for a comprehensive settlement of all issues in the region if there are no preconditions. He said Iraq's annexation of Kuwait as its nineteenth province is final. However, his country is prepared to present its views on Kuwait if the issue is raised in such talks.

Mr. al-Sahhaf also reiterated his country's stand that Israel will be attacked if war breaks out. He said Iraq will retaliate with chemical and binary weapons if nuclear weapons are used by its opponents. Baghdad will also blow up all oil fields in the region.

Minister Comments on Gulf Crisis

BK0401143891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1430 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 4 (AFP)—An Iraqi presidential envoy said here Friday that if the United States initiated a war in the Gulf, Iraq would blow up all oil installations in the Saudi Peninsula.

"We will blow up all installations in the whole pensinsula (if war breaks out), not just those in Kuwait," visiting Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahaf told a press conference here.

Asked about predictions that if that happened the peninsula could burn for a year and cause a global ecological disaster, Mr. al-Sahaf replied "the human disaster will be worse."

He also said Baghdad would never initiate a war but if the U.S. started a war, Israel, which he described as America's "watchdog with nuclear teeth" in the region, would be hit.

If nuclear weapons were used Iraq would respond with binary chemical weapons, he warned.

"If the Americans are foolish enough ... it will be a long bloody war and they will be defeated," he said.

He described the Iraqi August 2 invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait as "final," but urged the United States to come to the negotiating table "without preconditions," saying Baghdad wanted a solution to the Gulf crisis through dialogue.

"On the negotiation table, everything can be discussed," he said, adding that any talks must be "comprehensive" involving the Palestinian and Lebanese questions.

U.S. President George Bush has said negotiations must be premised on Iraq's withdrawal from the tiny oil-rich shaykhdom.

The Indian Government meanwhile said that it was "imperative" that the United States and Iraq meet before the Gulf crisis reached a point of no return.

An Indian foreign affairs spokesman issued the statement after a meeting between Mr. al-Sahaf and Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar earlier Friday, but added that there had been no specific proposal for India to mediate.

With only 11 days to go before a UN deadline runs out allowing the U.S.-led multinational contingent to use force to eject Iraq from Kuwait, he said Mr. Shekhar had conveyed the same message on the urgency of a meeting directly to the Iraqi envoy.

Mr. al-Sahaf, who arrived here Wednesday on a previously unannounced visit, replied "I don't know" when asked at the press conference if Baghdad would reply to the latest U.S. proposal for talks.

Washington has proposed that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker meet Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz in Switzerland sometime between Monday and Wednesday in "one last attempt for peace."

Mr. al-Sahaf refused to be drawn on whether he thought Iran would remain neutral if war broke out after the January 15 deadline and also brushed aside questions on a reported heavy new deployment of Iraqi troops along the border with Turkey.

Asked if Kuwait could be represented at any "comprehensive negotiations" on the Gulf crisis, the envoy retorted: "Kuwaitis—who do you mean—those rotten shaykhs?"

However he said modalities of any peace talks could be worked out slowly, using the example of the 1975 Helsinki conference meetings that linked human rights and disarmament.

"No one thought anything would come out of that," he said.

"The important thing is that talks have no preconditions," he said after the press conference, when a senior member of his delegation clarified privately that Iraq would not withdraw its troops under "pressure or diktat."

"It (the occupation of Kuwait) is final, but anything can be presented at the negotiating table, we can present our historical case and the other side can present theirs," he added, clarifying that his government would not rule out the issue being raised.

Mr. al-Sahaf appeared to dismiss hopes of a solution being reached through the good offices of the United Nations citing what he called "double standards" favoring the West in the Security Council, of which India has just become a member.

He said the issue of India being able to use its position on the Security Council had not come up in his discussions with Mr. Chandra Shekhar, whose two month-old government has taken a tougher stand on the Iraqi invasion than its predecessor.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar has stated categorically that Iraqi troops should withdraw.

Late Friday the foreign affairs spokesman said the premier had responded to an Iraqi offer of oil by saying it would be considered only in the context of UN sanctions against Iraq.

Asked about the hardening of India's stance, Mr. al-Sahaf admitted to "differences" but added: "The main thing is that India has not sent troops to aggress Iraq."

Oil Offered To Pay Debt

BK0501104091 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Jan 91

[Text] India has urged Iraq and the United States to agree to an early date for talks on resolving the Gulf crisis. The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, told the visiting Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, in New Delhi that the crisis is reaching a point of no return.

Official sources in New Delhi said that the Iraqi side has also asked New Delhi to consider the possibility of lifting oil from Iraq to pay back the $400-million-debt owed to India. The Indian side agreed to examine the offer within the parameter of UN resolutions.

Prime Minister Speaks on Action Plan for Kashmir

BK0701094091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The government is preparing an action plan on Jammu and Kashmir and is in touch with the leaders of various political parties in the state. Disclosing this the prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, told the Lok Sabha today that the government is willing to assist the political leaders, who want to visit the state, to help in restoring normalcy. He said there are indications that many misguided people want to return to the mainstream as they are convinced of the futility of violence.

Intervening during question hour, the prime minister said the situation in the state is still bad though there has been some perceptible change following the efforts of security forces to check subversive activities.

He said the government has information that militants have been getting support from across the border. The government is also aware of the reports about Pakistan's moral support to the militants in Kashmir. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that the government will not tolerate insurgency and appropriate steps will be taken according to the need of the hour. Replying to a supplementary, he said that he has been in touch with the Pakistani prime minister who had assured him of noninterference. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said India will not allow any outside interference in Jammu and Kashmir and raising the Kashmir question at any international forum. He said the government will take all necessary steps to maintain Kashmir as an integral part of the country.

The prime minister welcomed the members suggestion for convening an all-party meeting to reiterate the country's support to the armed forces in containing violence and restoring normalcy in the border states. He made it clear that the army has not been deployed either in Kashmir or Punjab and added that the government does not want to deploy the army for internal security unless it becomes absolutely necessary.

Assam Governor Says Rebels Linked With LTTE

BK0401163291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 4 (AFP)—Insurgents in India's Assam state had links with Sri Lanka's most powerful Tamil separatist group, the state governor said Friday.

D.D. Thakur told a news conference here that investigations were under way to unravel the connection between the outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Mr. Thakur said the authorities had found evidence that leaders of ULFA, which seeks an independent Assam, had made clandestine trips to Thailand, China and the United States to procure arms and ammunition.

The governor did not say whether the group managed to purchase arms in the three countries, nor did he give further details about the tie-up between the ULFA and LTTE.

His statement came a day after an Indian newspaper reported that ULFA had been operating at least six training centres in India's southern Tamil Nadu state, separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow strip of sea.

THE TELEGRAPH newspaper said the camps had been smashed by Indian authorities and New Delhi was studying "the exact degree of coordination between the LTTE and ULFA."

LTTE guerrillas, who declared a ceasefire in Sri Lanka's war-torn northeast Sunday, have been charged by Colombo with making illegal and frequent forays into Tamil Nadu to purchase arms, fuel and medicines.

The Indian Government dismissed the Assam administration and brought the state of 22 million people under direct rule in November to stem the growing insurgency.

New Delhi had then charged that the ULFA had forged "an operational relationship" with separatist guerrillas in the neighbouring state of Nagaland as well as anti-government rebels in Burma.

Mr. Thakur said Indian Army troops deployed in Assam had so far arrested 1,375 people linked to the group, including several engineers, doctors and academics.

The army also recovered more than 450 weapons and a huge quantity of ammunition, including two Chinese-made light machine guns, sten guns, U.S.-made assault rifles and 174 detonators, from ULFA's jungle hideouts.

Mr. Thakur said the well-knit group, which came into prominence recently with a series of killings and kidnappings, had executed some 130 "informers," including 28 whose bodies have been found.

ULFA, which seeks to establish "scientific socialism," or Maoism, in Assam, does not recognise the Indian Constitution. It calls India a colonial power and Assam a colony of New Delhi.

Plan To Solve Temple-Mosque Dispute Cited

BK0501094891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] Sri Ram Jamnabhoomi-Babri Masjid [Temple-Mosque] peace commission has suggested a three-point formula to defuse communal tension in the country. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi yesterday, the convenor of the mission, Yogi Shantiswarup, said under the formula, kar seva [voluntary service] of the Ram temple at Ayodhya should be allowed at the place where the shilanyas [foundation stone laying ceremony] was done in November 1989. The Yogi said he had discussed this formula with the Muslim and Hindu religious leaders.

Minister on Impact of Levies on 'Common Man'

BK0501034791 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The finance minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, assured the Rajya Sabha yesterday that the impact of the levies announced recently on the common man will be absolutely minimal. Replying to clarifications sought by members on his statement made earlier in the house, Mr. Sinha said the government's effort is to mop up additional resources from the affluent sections of society to tide over the present difficult economic crisis. The finance minister said strict measures will be taken to control revenue expenditure. He indicated that about 1,850 crore rupees is expected to be saved during the current year on account of the 10 percent cut in government expenditure. Measures have also been taken to do away with all wasteful expenditure, and the government is committed to austerity. He said the previous government did not (?have) the determination required to tackle the problem. A new (?plan) was taken to make the budget realistic.

Gujarat Unit Favors Merger With Janata Dal-S

BK0601045691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The Gujarat unit of Janata Party has passed a resolution unanimously recommending its national council for the merger into Janata Dal-S at the national level. Talking to newsmen after a meeting of the state unit, general secretary Mr. Jayanti Lal Parmar said that state unit of Gujarat would merge into Janata Dal led by the chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Addresses Reconstruction Seminar

LD0501120391 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The president of the republic this morning opened the second international conference on reconstruction of war-damaged areas at Tehran University. Experts of reconstruction work from 22 countries were present at the conference.

In his remarks at the conference, attended by the ministers of science, oil, housing, and other officials engaged in reconstruction work as well as university experts, professors, and researchers, the president drew attention to the importance of the gathering and enumerated various aspects of it. He said: Our war and reconstruction are endowed with characteristics which can seldom be found in other places. Such characteristics extend an invitation call to philanthropic individuals for cooperation.

The president said: Thanks to the efforts and willpower of the people we coped with one of the most unusual wars over a time span of eight years; we passed through the period of sacred defense all on our own while being isolated. Today the hands of the enemy have been cut off from our country; we have attained our rights. We hope the era of our reconstruction will record an important chapter in the history of humanity.

Addressing the experts and researchers, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: You are familiar with the methods of postwar reconstruction of many countries. All countries did their work through access to vast international credits. Even the Third World countries could manage to rebuild their damage through ample international assistance. In the case of the Islamic Republic, however, not only is it deprived of international assistance but it is also faced with many obstacles which the powers erect against its reconstruction efforts. Our assets in the United States are being used by the United States capitalists. Our assets in France remain blocked, as Paris refuses to repay debts owed to us. Yet, during the war they used to place ample assistance at the disposal of Iraq.

Referring to international obligations toward our country and with regard to damage inflicted through the war, the president said: Many regions on which there is agreement are yet to be built. One must say that the extent of war destruction is vast. How can the country, which under the pressure of colonialists endured incorrect life styles in the past, pay for such huge damages? Is the burden of more than $1,000 billion in damages inflicted by war not a heavy one for a developing country to bear? In any case, during the war they destroyed the country's development projects which were about to be completed; they totally destroyed 120 villages; they inflicted major damage on 50 towns; they repeatedly ruined refineries, power stations, factories, the steel mill, petrochemical plants, harbors and vital centers of the country. Yet, despite all that we put in our best efforts. And now, today, we stand on our own feet. Despite all the conspiracies, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains alive. I must seriously confess that our people's forces have made efforts toward that end. And no country helped Iran. All the heavy burden of the war was carried by the people on their own.

In conclusion, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani asked the foreign experts to implement their projects and views on the reconstruction of the country. At the conference Chamran, deputy commander-in-chief of the forces in reconstruction affairs, as well as Mirzadeh, the executive vice president, submitted comprehensive reports to the conference.

The conference will continue until next Monday in Tehran and will then continue next Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the country's war-damaged areas currently being rebuilt. It will conclude its deliberations next Saturday in Tehran.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Views Women's Issues

LD0601120491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Excerpts] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today attended a gathering of wives and mothers of martyrs from Tehran and a number of women academicians. [passage omitted]

Referring to the conspiracy involving western culture's invasion of Islamic countries, the president said: After the westerners attained their political and economic goals, to safeguard their illegitimate interests, they thought that they could guarantee their evil aims by propagating their corrupt culture. During the despotic, monarchical era the voice and vision [radio and TV], universities, schools, parks, newspapers and youth centers disseminated corrupt western culture. They went a long way in that respect.

He added: In the previous regime, by putting forward women who disregarded Islamic values as politicians, teachers, or singers, and providing propaganda means for them, they strove to corrupt the Muslim Iranian women. In the early days of the revolution they tried to promulgate such a mentality. However, Iranian women rediscovered their path and found new models, and their life took on a new form. [passage omitted]

Addressing the women, the president said: The way in front of you is smooth and we do not envisage any problems regarding your presence [career activities]. Although lack of observance of Islamic dress and Islamic ethics by a few women is an obstacle in the way of the progress of women, you must convince them in a friendly way not to prevent women's progress. [passage omitted]

Government Requests ICO Summit on Gulf

LD0601171191 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Mr. Sarmadi, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, has announced that in view of the sensitive international situation, in particular in the Persian Gulf crisis, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a note, has officially requested the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to take the necessary steps towards convening an extraordinary summit session aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis, as soon as possible.

Compensation for Economic Losses in Crisis Urged

NC0401215091 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 27 Dec 90 p 16

["Weekly Political Newsletter" by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, adviser to the Iranian Foreign Ministry]

[Text] 1. "Aggression within aggression" has brought the Persian Gulf to an unfortunate juncture. At a time when the bulk of the world's capital was seeking a peaceful haven so that it could boost competitive production, the Persian Gulf has been transformed into a crisis-ridden and volatile region which is facing an extremely bleak future. Why a bleak future? Because the end envisaged by the U.S. plan for the region is no better than the results of Iraq's aggression! This region will only see better days when the foreigners are removed and the regional countries relinquish their expansionist and aggressive designs.

2. Over the last few months, the Islamic Republic of Iran has sustained immense financial losses due to the Persian Gulf crisis. If we assess the first phase of the crisis, that is the clash between the United States and Iraq, we see that it will require at least six months to return things to normal, whether through military or political means (and political means may take even longer), and so Iran's losses will go even higher. The finalization and implementation of investment agreements in Iran will be shelved for some time after the conflict is resolved, and this by itself will result in estimated losses of $30-60 billion.

3. One should ask who is responsible for these losses. Most certainly it is the initiators of the aggression, or in better words it is the "aggression within aggression" that should bear responsibility for these losses. On the other hand, the Arab countries of the region have handed over their oil wells to the United States, lock, stock and barrel! Now it is the United States that decides the level of oil production and the price of oil! Is it possible that today the price of oil can be about $20 per barrel? We should say that we have auctioned off our oil. We have handed it over for plunder, not for sale. The very claim of selling it is an insult!

4. The United States and the shaykhs of the region are reaping the benefits of Iran's principled stance on the Kuwaiti crisis: Islamic Iran has condemned the aggression against Kuwait and has endorsed and implemented the embargoes against Iraq. Islamic Iran has exercised absolute restraint and refrained from any action that could escalate the crisis or spark a new one. With all this, Iran cannot sustain financial losses as well, and, indeed, why should it? It is about time that the West and the Arab shaykhs find ways to compensate Iran for these losses. The Islamic Republic of Iran must also find ways to mitigate and rein in these losses and make up for those already sustained. Why should the parties involved in the conflict obtain the best benefits of Iran's correct and principled stance without even a backward glance? It is impossible that our principles will allow us to accept such a onesided situation.

Army Official on Military Exercises 'This Week'

NC0701085891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 7 Jan 91

[Text] The largest military exercises, code-named the Fajr Operational Exercises, will be conducted this week by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Bakhtaran, Ilam, and Khuzestan Provinces. This was

stated by Colonel Hasani-Sa'di, commander of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces to correspondents yesterday at one of the western bases. He also spoke about the objectives behind and the mode of the Fajr military exercises.

He said that in carrying out a command by the commander-in-chief, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, and in order to prepare and to elevate the combat potential of the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces as well as to assess combat effectiveness and the skill of all units, bases, and commanders, the Fajr Operational Exercises will begin this week in an area of 15,000 square km in the country's southern and western areas.

He added: During these month-long exercises, the Air Force's capability to provide combat and defense support to the ground forces and, ultimately, the readiness of the ground forces' chemical and biological unit will be assessed.

He also clarified: The units participating in these operational exercises will be the infantry, armored, and commando divisions; special forces; the Army Air Corps' engineering-combat artillery; logistical units; and combat and telecommunication services.

He also said that the Fajr exercises will be supervised and directed by the Khatam ol-Anbiya Base and that all the units involved will actively and effectively participate in them. He added: During these exercises, the experiences of eight years of imposed war will be practically assessed.

The commander of the Army ground forces said that the exact day on which the exercises will start will be announced 48 hours before they begin to give information and elicit cooperation from the people, especially those in the areas of the exercises.

Iraq's 'Izzat Ibrahim Reportedly To Visit Tehran

NC0601075491 Paris AFP in English 0744 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan 6 (AFP)—The number two man in the Iraqi regime, Izzat Ibrahim, will visit Tehran next Tuesday for talks on the bilateral "peace process" and developments in the Gulf, the TEHRAN TIMES newspaper said in a report Sunday.

Quoting reliable sources, the Iranian English-language daily, which is close to the government, said the deputy chairman of Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council had been invited here by Iranian Vice-President Hasan Habibi.

The Tehran Times stressed that Mr. Ibrahim was the highest ranking Iraqi official to visit Iran since August when, shortly after invading Kuwait, Baghdad accepted all of Iran's terms for a peace settlement between the two countries.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz went to Tehran on September 9 for a two-day official visit, the first by a senior Iraqi official to Iran since the Islamic Revolution in that country in 1979.

Commentary Contrasts U.S., European Gulf Stands

LD0601223291 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The British prime minister, John Major, yesterday opened his four-day tour of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Oman to meet with their leaders and also inspect the British troops stationed in Saudi Arabia. While there are, alas, no more than 10 days to the UN deadline to Iraq for pulling its forces out of Kuwait, the British prime minister, by embarking on this tour, is trying to enthuse steadfastness in the 30,000 British troops deployed in the region. In [word indistinct] of this move on the part of John Major may be treated as a sort of harmony with the current U.S. policy, one should keep the point in mind that London had adopted a softer posture, as compared to that of America, at the recent session of the EEC foreign ministers in Luxembourg.

At this meeting, the EEC foreign ministers agreed to confer with Iraq and pledged to increase their efforts to resolve other Middle East issues immediately after the termination of the Persian Gulf crisis. In this same connection, the Americans have repeatedly stressed that there is no link whatsoever between the Persian Gulf turmoil and the Middle East issues.

The U.S. officials, by their posturing on this and the UN statements and resolutions, have shown that they are not inclined at all to negotiate on the future of the Palestinians and the Israeli actions.

Although with regard to the Middle East issue, the EEC, in order to remove any doubt concerning granting of concession by it to Iraq, has declared that Saddam Husayn has failed to show any fresh incentive for settling the Palestine assertion of the subject on the settlement of the Middle East conflict, depicts the reality that Europe for the sake of amicably resolving the crisis is willing to adopt measures repugnant to the U.S. interest in the region. [sentence as heard] In this regard, Mr. Michel Vauzelle, chairman of the foreign relations committee of the French parliament, in the course of a meeting with Saddam Husayn in Baghdad yesterday, said: Everything is practicable in the Persian Gulf crisis provided that Iraq made certain moves. In this respect diplomats believe that by these comments Mr. Vauzelle wanted to convey that France, in the event of Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, would be willing to pave the way for the realization of Baghdad's [word indistinct] despite U.S. intention to launch an attack against Iraq and to destroy its military capability. French President Francois Mitterrand has offered certain guarantees to the Iraqi regime, to the effect that in the event of the Iraqi troops

withdrawal from Kuwait, [word indistinct] would not take place any offensive against it.

European states, by expressing a desire to hold a dialogue with Baghdad and to continue economic sanctions against it, have indicated that they are willing to enforce a policy independent of and opposed to the current U.S. strategy. These countries, as recently commented by the Italian foreign minister, who believes that they are in a position to establish [ties] with regional states in a manner different from that of the United States. Based on this very thinking, the EEC under the present circumstances, when the crisis is nearing its sensitive stage, is incessantly trying to find a peaceful settlement to it, and making its best efforts to avoid use of force.

Radio Views Gulf Crisis, Threat to Holy Sites

NC0601105891 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0645 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Political commentary from the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's stance has been consistent and firm on the Persian Gulf crisis right from the outset up until now. On this basis, our country's diplomacy has condemned the phenomenon of aggression from every aspect and in all possible ways while stressing the need for an amicable settlement of the crisis and abstention from war and conflict. In view of the sensitivity of the region, complications created by political actions and reactions, as well as by the extensive deployment of weapons and the advent of war, will only bring home the reality that a military confrontation will endanger the interests of Muslim nations and will be extraordinarily dangerous for prospects of durable long-term peace and security in the region.

Therefore, it is necessary to condemn aggression to protect the territorial integrity of regional countries. The departure of foreign forces and the implementation of UN resolutions are also among the points which are the index of our country's current political moves.

The esteemed President Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani stated in this regard: A point worth mentioning is the situation in the region in which unfortunately, the signs of peace and amity are scarce. From all angles, the situation seems to be heading toward an escalation of hostilities and a violent crisis, and the danger of war seems to be more visible. The two sides are not ready to budge from their respective stances.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has, as always, emphasized that the solution lies in terminating the usurpation of Kuwait and that the Iraqi forces should return to Iraqi territory.

On the basis of this analysis, one can deduce that the essence of the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomacy at this juncture is focused on the unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the departure of Western and American forces from the region, and the resolving of differences and difficulties by means of peace, understanding, and amiability. These are the indices which can open and pave the path for a solution to the crisis. Any continuation of the crisis—while endangering the interests of the Muslim nations—will result in stockpiling dangerous weapons in the region and will also expose the sacred Muslim sites to the danger of desecration by aliens.

Therefore, for the protection of the sanctity of holy Islamic sites, steps should be taken to avert the militarization of the regional atmosphere any further and to resolve the crisis. Iraq should speedily withdraw from Kuwait, and the West should depart from the region. According to Iran, these conditions are mandatory for a swift solution to the issue.

In parallel with this Iranian stance, the Western press termed the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [PGCC] session the second victory for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the past four months. In the session, six of the PGCC member countries agreed to ties with Iran. The FINANCIAL TIMES reported that in the past four months, Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president, had accepted all the Iranian conditions for resolving the eight-year long war, and last week, in the concluding statement of the Council's 11th summit session, the leaders of six Arab countries who are PGCC members stressed the need for extensive relations with Iran and their readiness to begin talks with the Islamic Republic of Iran for establishing a new regional security setup including Iran.

This newspaper also alluded to the Iranian political stance, emphasizing that the Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to the stationing of U.S. forces in the region and has reiterated that the security of the Persian Gulf region should only be ensured by the regional countries. Similarly, according to the newspaper's political commentator, one of the objectives of the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance over the past six months has been to convince the PGCC members that all kinds of security establishments will be ineffective without Iran's support. The newspaper also recalls the hostile stances of most PGCC members in the course of the imposed war and states: Now the same countries are referring to Iran as a stabilizing force in the region.

In any case, the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance has been consistent since the advent of the crisis. The pullout of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and of the Western and American forces from the region and the amicable settlement of the crisis, as well as the safeguarding of security with the assistance of all the regional countries without any foreign presence are the points which define the Iranian stance.

KEYHAN Warns Against GCC Membership

NC0601132591 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Dec 90 p 16

[Political commentary by Seyyed Mas'ud Jazayeri: "A Strategic Error"]

[Text] The Persian Gulf crisis has once again raised the question of a new regional security system with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the reactionary Arabs included. The continuation of the crisis and the emergence of new parameters [preceding word in English] for it have brought to the fore the satisfaction of the front arrayed against Iraq with regard to this matter. A discourse seems unnecessary on the performance of the this [Gulf Cooperation] council [GCC], which had been established by the White House to combat the Islamic revolution.

The factors for the divergence of the Arab reactionaries and the Islamic Republic of Iran stem from the aspirations of the Islamic revolution. Attempts to keep these aspirations from spilling into the countries of the region is the main and common objective of the close and distant neighbors of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The performance of the Council in the course of the imposed war does not leave any room for doubt.

Apart from the issue of war, incidents such as the "hajj" catastrophe clearly point to the extent of the plots. This organization did not undergo any change of character despite the changes in the equilibrium in the Persian Gulf. The hostility of the Saudis is more pronounced than that of the other members for certain reasons. Despite its present problems, there are still murmurings in this country in favor of Baghdad (the people of Iraq) and against the Islamic Republic of Iran. In addition, not even one of these regimes has taken the slightest practical step toward compensation for the unlimited human and material losses which they had inflicted on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In principle, in the light of the structure of the above systems, it would be wishful thinking to imagine any change or revision of their stances with regard to the Islamic Republic of Iran in the event of the factors mentioned in the early part of this article.

The U.S. policy is to besiege the Islamic Republic of Iran, and one of the ways to do this is to incorporate Iran in the regional or transregional balances (created by the United States). This issue is of immense importance in view of the fact that some individuals think if the outcome of the deployment in the Persian Gulf is the establishment of such an organization, it will be adequate recompense for the United States.

It would not be irrelevant if we were to mention that the new security plan formulated for the region by the United States is merely aimed at drawing Iran into the fold of Washington's allies and affiliates in the region.

A security system in the region with the participation of Iran and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council's member countries is a mirage and has only one loser. In the event of the materialization of such a situation:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran will be transformed into an affectionate, self-sacrificing paternal figure, with no authority whatsoever.

2. Support of such regimes is in conflict with the principles of the revolution.

3. A joint security pact or a political treaty with these countries will be a strategic error.

4. Assuming that in this manner Tehran will encounter a reduction in "threats" or will increase in its "strength," should we also believe that the U.S. policy has undergone a drastic change as regards the Islamic revolution and the reactionary Arabs?!

A renewed assessment of this strategic issue by the highest decisionmaking body of the country will play a key role in safeguarding the security and interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Editorial Stresses Need for Iraqi Withdrawal

NC0401213991 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Dec 90 pp 1,10

[Editorial: "Regional Countries Have Nothing To Gain From a Military Confrontation"]

[Text] The 45 days of calm which were to follow the latest UN Security Council resolution have apparently been a period of preparations for a new round in the regional crisis. Even though it was clear from the start that no military incident would take place during the 45 days before the expiration of the deadline to Iraq set by the latest UN Security Council resolution, the countdown of days and hours until the deadline expires is not an easy time. It is not, however, Iraq that feels that the deadline will be to its detriment; it is America and Washington's European allies that feel that time is working against them.

Everything indicates that the NATO front believes that Iraq has not taken this final ultimatum seriously and is even trying to exploit this last opportunity to denigrate America and its allies as best as it can.

No one should be mistaken about the process of regional developments and conclude that the Baghdad regime is truly anti-American. What is happening is a rare historic phenomenon where the prestige and pride of America is being broken by those who until recently did not hesitate to bow down before it.

The fact that America was looking for a pretext to carry out a NATO military expedition into the heart of the Islamic world's oil-rich area and thus seized on Iraq's aggression against Kuwait as providing the best possible

one is significant. Another point is even more significant, and that is the Baghdad regime's contemptuous treatment of America. This phenomenon is significant in that the Baghdad regime started the imposed war on America's orders, and when it was given the green light and the full support of the East and West, especially America and the Soviet Union, it [words indistinct] in that eight-year war. It relied directly on the assistance and full political, military, propaganda, and economic support of the East and the West, and the East's and West's support for the Baghdad regime during the eight-year war also became overt in the UN Security Council. Today the West well remembers that support.

Today these very countries of the East and West are coming to bitter conclusions about Iraq at the UN Security Council and deciding its fate. Baghdad, which relied on their assistance and support during the imposed war, is, however, denigrating both the East and the West and ignoring their threats.

Why? Possibly because the satanic powers always denigrate their own satellites, and Iraq felt it could no longer tolerate this situation and so decided to correct their behavior on its own.

This is not the place to discuss Iraq's dependence on the East and the West. This effort by Iraq to break the pride and prestige of the East and the West is laudable, but this in no way means that the actions of an aggressive regime that devoured the territory of another country is supported and endorsed.

Iraq has to withdraw from Kuwait and to allow the Kuwaiti people to decide their fate on their own. Iraq's aggression is condemned and should be confronted. At the same time, however, no country and no power should be enticed into exploiting these conditions and into thinking that it can prepare the ground for future plots.

A military confrontation in any form will not be to the benefit of the region and of Muslim nations. It is in the interests of the regional governments and nations for the problem to be solved through Iraq's unconditional withdrawal and the withdrawal of all intervening forces from the region. It is in the interests of the region that the situation, instead of becoming more complicated, moves toward calm and stability through an Iraqi withdrawal and the withdrawal of all interfering forces. No country in the region will benefit from a military confrontation. It is the satanic powers that are thinking of ways to regulate and to adjust the situation to their own benefit.

It is Iraq that has given them this pretext and it is Iraq that should end this game. America and the West have been exposed. Everyone has realized that they think only of their own interests and that they even regard the rule of the regional shaykhs within the framework of their own interests. Therefore, the continuation of the crisis will be to the detriment of the region and the world of Islam. Once Iraq understands this point, it can, through its unconditional withdrawal, prevent the continuation of this regrettable situation.

Commentary Lauds New Labor Law

NC0501104491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Commentary by the Central News Unit's Research Group]

[Text] The first Labor Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran was finally approved and sent to the presidency for implementation. This law was approved after months of Majles deliberation and sent to the Council of Guardians for a final opinion. Because of the differences of opinion between the Guardians' Council and the Majles on some of its articles, however, the labor law was finally sent to the Expediency Discernment Council which, after revising the law's contents and making some amendments to it, approved the Labor Law of the Islamic Republic of Iran in 203 articles and 121 notes on 26 Aban this year [17 November 1990] and sent it to the government for implementation.

Today the role played by the noteworthy efforts of our workers is well known to everyone. These are workers who saw a bright horizon before them with the victory of the Islamic revolution and the establishment of the Islamic Republic system and who considered the end of the disgraceful life of monarchy as ending the era of oppression of the whole nation in general and of the workers in particular. It was with this thought in mind that over the past 12 years and despite difficulties, the workers have been actively and extensively present on all the scenes of the Islamic revolution. And during the eight years of sacred defense—while at all the combat and epical scenes—they never allowed the wheels of our industry and production to halt. Our late imam also repeatedly lauded the role of the workers on various occasions.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution and despite the country's general problems, outstanding steps were taken for the workers' welfare. But this poor and toiling sector faced many problems, most of which stemmed from the lack of a labor law in conformity with the teachings of Islam. The many years of the labor law left by the old regime—despite all the reforms and amendments that were made to it—tormented the workers. This is because the former labor law was the one approved in 1337 [1958].

Thus, the approval of the Islamic labor law under the current conditions can be considered a basic step to help the working class which will further motivate this immense and toiling class to be more active in production, especially within the framework of the first five-year plan. One can dare say that after the Constitution and civil laws, the labor law is among the most important laws of a society because it affects much of society and regulates the work and production on which a country's economy is based.

The Islamic labor law was inspired by the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and has its roots in the

word of God. This law was compiled on the basis of the late imam's prophet-like directives and of valuable previous experiences in work and production. Even though an Islamic labor law was very much needed in the system of the Islamic Republic and after the passage of years, the compilation of a comprehensive law which included the views of all the officials as well as all the problems of society—namely, the root and character of the country's industry and agriculture—nevertheless needed time and careful attention. This law, whose compilation and implementation was always discussed in the country after the approval of the Consitution and the formation of the Majles, was finally approved by the Majles and sent on 2 Mehr last year [24 September 1989], on the basis of a decision of the esteemed Council of Guardians, to the Expediency Discernment Council. The latter held various meetings and started a study of and amendment to some of the law's articles by taking all potential; views; proposals; legal, domestic, and international issues; and, above all, Islam's views on labor relations, and approved it on 29 Aban this year [20 November 1990].

As for a brief look at the special characteristics of the new labor law, education is one of the most important and was considered by the lawmakers as the basis for healthy labor relations. Also, attention to safety, health, discipline, and order in the workplace are among the law's other characteristics. In the new labor law, increasing production, achieving better output, decreasing losses, developing a system of wages, and the workers' participation in production profits have been taken into consideration. Also, the new law pays special attention to the wages of female workers and youth and protects them. The law also considers the special strata of society of the selfless devotees, the disabled, and others.

Motivating people to participate in activities is another of the new law's characteristics. The law tries to make them feel they are a part of working better and faster and of the system of profit and loss.

It is hoped that this law will, with the extensive cooperation of the workers and employees, create means for improving living conditions and production and can, with the efforts of all the workers, work toward the materialization of economic growth and development in a friendly atmosphere and toward the objectives of the sacred Islamic system.

Pakistan

Army Spokesman: 5,000 More Troops May Go to Gulf

BK0601093091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0921 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 6 (AFP)—Pakistan may send an additional 5,000 soldiers to Saudi Arabia in the next few days, doubling its contingent in the Gulf multinational force, an army spokesman said Sunday.

The Saudi and Pakistani Governments are "working out details and the schedule" for sending an armored or mechanized brigade comprising about 5,000 soldiers, General Riaz Ullah, the army's public relations chief, said in an interview.

They may leave here in "a matter of days," Gen. Ullah said Sunday, nine days from the U.N.-imposed deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait.

Once the deadline lapses, the United Nations has authorized the use of force to evict Iraq.

On August 13, Pakistan announced it was sending 5,000 soldiers in "defense of Saudi Arabia." About 2,000 troops left the following month, joined by 3,000 more in December.

As with the first contingent, Pakistan would hope that heavy armament would be provided on the ground to the 5,000 extra soldiers, who would arrive around January 15, Gen. Ullah said.

Pakistan's decision to join the U.S.-led multinational force in the Gulf has sparked criticism among certain sectors of society who support Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Sharif Calls for Unconditional Iraqi Withdrawal

BK0601164491 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has said that present government has embarked on a revolutionary program in various sectors to improve national economy, reduce dependence on foreign aid, and help overcome unemployment. Addressing a public meeting in Haroonabad in Bahawalnagar District today, he said this was necessary to achieve self-reliance in order to make Pakistan march alongside other nations toward the 21st century. The government, he said, is also taking steps to provide inexpensive justice to the people.

Earlier, addressing a public meeting in Toba Tek Singh, Mr. Nawaz Sharif said the enforcement of Islamic laws in the country is the top priority of his government and efforts are being made to reach consensus on the sharia bill within and outside the National Assembly. The prime minister said efforts have already been initiated for reconstruction, development, and prosperity of the country. The government also wants to make Pakistan strong in defense and free of foreign influence. Pakistan is capable of facing any eventuality and designs of its enemies would be foiled. We have adopted a firm stand that foreign aid must not be linked with conditions by any superpower. Pakistan would not compromise on its peaceful atomic program and would not accept conditions against national aspirations and interests. Mr. Nawaz Sharif reaffirmed Pakistan's continued support for the cause of freedom fighters in occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan and said we would also continue to work for the unity of the Muslim ummah.

Talking to newsmen at Multan airport this evening, the prime minister said Pakistan is taking keen interest in resolving the Gulf crisis and has taken the intiative in this direction. Mr. Nawaz Sharif said foreign ministers of Pakistan, Iran, and Turkey through a joint declaration have called upon the secretary general of ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] to convene an emergency meeting of ICO for a peaceful solution. He said Iraq should withdraw all its forces unconditionally from Kuwait and restore its legitimate government.

Foreign Office Planning for U.S. Aid Cut-Off

BK0601154091 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Jan 91 p 8

[By Aroosa Alam]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan. 5—Apprehensive of the total cutoff of the American aid, which at present stands suspended, Pakistan Foreign office in coordination with other relevant divisions is working out an alternate plan to tide over the situation.

The sources told THE MUSLIM that the Foreign Ministry has asked all the ministries directly affected to come up with their plans to meet the emergency.

Sources revealed that military alternatives were complicated. They said non-availability of spares would render most of the US equipment un-usable and dismissed the speculations that Pakistan could get spares from countries like Turkey and Indonesia because under the US Arms Control Act equipment and spares cannot be transferred to a third country.

It has been learnt that Pakistan has sufficent stocks of the spares till April, 1990 [year as published]. Defense Ministry is reported to have indicated to the Foreign Office that the only option available to Pakistan is to develop spares indigenously.

On the economic front, Foreign Office is awaiting response of the IMF. Negotiations are also under way with other sources as Pakistan will badly be needing foreign exchange for its future requirements of oil from Indonesia and Brunei.

The Foreign Office source disclosed that the update on the talks held between the Unites States and Pakistan on aid issue in Islamabad recently will be presented to President Bush shortly and the next round of talks was expected at higher official level.

The American budget, sources said, is likely to be debated by the American Congress in the 3rd week of January but it is not certain if there sould be some provision for Pakistan.

The sources told the scribe that it depends on the political leadership to make a decision whether to go with or without aid, keeping in view the domestic repercussions.

Premier Pledges Continued Support to Kashmiris

BK0501164091 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 5 Jan 91

[Text] The right of self-determination day was observed today throughout Azad Jammu and Kashmir and by Kashmiris living in Pakistan and abroad. It marks the adoption of the resolution by the UN General Assembly on this day in 1949 for granting right of self-determination to Kashmiris. The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, in a message on the occasion pledged that Pakistan would continue to extend full political, moral, and diplomatic support to the just cause of the Kashmiri people in the Indian-occupied territory until the dispute is resolved in accordance with the UN resolution. He reminded that on this day, the UN Commission for India and Pakistan was constituted and India had solemnly accepted the historic UN resolution. But it had persistently flouted the United Nations and refused to carry out its commitment made to Pakistan, the international community at large, and the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The prime minister said events in the past 12 months in the Indian-held Kashmir have stirred the conscience of the world and highlighted the tragic consequences of nonfulfillment of international pledges. He pointed out that the continuing mass uprising in the occupied territory is a powerful reminder that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have not accepted the Indian rule. It is, therefore, a genuine manifestation of the Kashmiri people's desire to decide their own future. Mr. Nawaz Sharif paid glowing tribute to the brave and freedom-loving Kashmiris, fighting against ruthless repression and brutality.

In Azad Kashmir, big functions and rallies were organized on the occasion. Addressing a rally, the Azad Jammu and Kashmir prime minister, Mr. Mumtaz Hussain Rathod, said Kashmir issue is not a territorial dispute between Pakistan and India, but a matter of right of self-determination of millions of Kashmiris. Another rally was addressed by the spokesman of the Tehrik-i-Hurriat-i-Kashmir, Professor Mohammad Ashraf Sarraf. Jammu and Kashmir Human Rights Movement also organized a rally. After marching through main bazaars of Muzaffarbad, the participants of the rally delivered a memorandum at the UN observers mission. It carries details of human rights violations by the Indian forces in held Kashmir.

Sri Lanka

Contingency Plans for Gulf War Discussed

BK0601112291 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Jan 91

[Text] Contingency plans in the event of an outbreak of hostilities in the Gulf were discussed at a meeting convened by the Minister of Trade and Commerce A.R. Mansoor at his office last evening on the direction of the

president. Mr. Mansoor told the assembled representative of exporters, importers and industrialists to submit proposals and suggestions on steps the government should take if war breaks out.

Many exporters expressed fears for tea exports. Mr. Michael D'Souza, chairman of Colombo Tea Traders Association, said that tea exports to Egypt, Syria, Turkey and Europe will not be affected as long as the Suez Canal remained open. He, however, cautioned that in the event of a prolonged war and stocks of tea auctions are held up for more than five weeks, there will be a major storage problem in Colombo. The chairman of the Ceylon Shipping Corporation, D.G. W. Wijesinghe, assured the exporters that his corporation would do its best to fulfill its obligations toward local exporters. The chairman of Air Lanka, Mr. Jayewardene, pointed out that exports of fresh fruits and vegetables to the Gulf have already been badly affected as a result of a steep hike in insurance premium amounting to 150,000 U.S. dollars per flight. W.T. Ellawala, chairman of Sri Lanka Shippers Council, said that in the event of a war shipping lines operating to Gulf ports would reroute their operations to Colombo. The port of Colombo will become a center of focus and it should gear itself to meet the increased traffic. But they should not be at the expense of local exporters and importers. The chairman of CWE [Cooperative Wholesale Establishment], A. Samarveera, assured the meeting that the government has adequate stocks of essential food items to meet any contingency. The exporters and industrialists were unanimous in calling upon the government to extend credit facilities to them to carry on holding operations in the event of a war.

Mr. Mansoor said that their suggestions and ideas will be conveyed to the president and the cabinet for necessary action.

LTTE Issues Statement on Cease-Fire Violations

BK0601100891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1001 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Colombo, Jan 6 (AFP)—The Tamil Tiger rebels Sunday accused Sri Lankan Government troops of breaking a truce in the island's war-ravaged Northeast.

A statement received here from the group's London office said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had summoned a high-level meeting to study continuous cease-fire violations "by the Sri Lankan armed forces."

"The cease-fire violations by the Sri Lankan armed forces are construed by the LTTE leadership as a provocation," the guerrillas said, adding however that the "in spite of this provocation, the LTTE leadership is genuinely looking forward to a return of normalcy and re-start of negotiations."

The rebels said that on friday a LTTE cadre was killed in northern Elephant Pass when security forces opened fire at a LTTE bunker.

It said that another Tiger activist was injured Saturday when troops fired on a guerrilla bunker in Mawaddipuram, close to the main Palaly military base in the Northern Jaffna Peninsula.

A military spokesman here denied the allegations but said that on Saturday the army killed a LTTE activist in Kallady in Eastern Batticaloa when the rebel tried to snatch a gun from a soldier guarding a bridge.

The military has described the army action as "defensive."

Both Colombo and the LTTE have accused each other of committing cease-fire violations since the Tigers declared a unilateral truce from January 1 in the Northeast, home to Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

The Sri Lankan Government said security forces would suspend "offensive operations" as an interim measure until Friday to allow Colombo more time to formally respond to the LTTE cease-fire offer.

The military has alleged that the rebels committed a dozen truce violations while the LTTE earlier listed nine cease-fire violations by security forces in the North and East.

Quoting from a security report, the military spokesman said the main university in Batticaloa was partially damaged when LTTE rebels set fire to it on January 2.

He said that in other incidents reported in the past 24 hours, a woman from a refugee camp in Batticaloa was injured when she stepped on a mine laid by the Tigers while the rebels looted torch batteries from a shop in the same district.

Meanwhile, London-based LTTE leader Sathasivam Krishnakumar, Alias Kittu, warned in an interview published in the Sunday Island here that the guerrillas could not continue the cease-fire without the government's cooperation.

"We will give time for them to think abot negotiations. We cannot continue (the cease-fire) for years just because we said it was indefinite," Mr. Krishnakumar said.

He said "the ball is in their court" and that the LTTE hoped the government would act "with reasonable goodwill."

Fresh fighting between government troops and the guerrillas broke out on June 11 following the collapse of 14 months of peace talks between the government and the LTTE.

Since then some 5,250 people have died in fighting in the Northeast, which the LTTE contends is the traditional homeland of the island's two million strong Tamil community.

Wijeratne Charges Rebels With Violations

BK0701093491 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0814 GMT 7 Jan 91

["OANA/Pool item"]

[Excerpt] Colombo, 8 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—At a special briefing at the Gramodaya centre in Colombo this morning Minister of Plantation Industries and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne charged that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] had committed as many as 19 violations up to 0915 hours [0345 GMT] on 6 January after declaring a unilateral cease-fire at midnight on 31 December, 1990.

Mr. Wijeratne accused the Tigers of starting a war when they wanted to and declaring a cease-fire when the heat was on them. A number of the LTTE violations were of a serious nature.

Mr. Wijeratne said no benefit of the doubt could be given to the Tiger leaders.

They cannot pass the buck if they have no control of their cadres. The security forces had been forced to retaliate. Four soldiers had been wounded and six LTTE terrorists killed.

Quoting intelligence reports Mr. Wijeratne said LTTE's representative in London Sathasivam Krishnakumar alias Kittu had said the LTTE was at war with the Sri Lankan security forces and would not lay down arms. There were no reasons for discussions other than with the government, Kittu had said. He had also branded the other Tamil groups as being toys of the Sri Lankan Government.

The intelligence reports also show that Kittu had said the LTTE insisted on self determination and the formation of a Tamil National Army, as the basis on which the LTTE will enter into discussions.

Mr. Wijeratne said in reply to a question that the cease-fire declared by the LTTE appeared to be a bogus one.

Secretary Defence General Cyril Ranatunge said aerial reconnaisance had shown the LTTE were re-building bunkers in several areas, including those surrounding the outer peremeter of the military air base at Palaly in Jaffna. He said that at Kayts, a large group of LTTE terrorists carrying arms and flying white flags had dispersed when told by the security forces they were not welcome.

Mr. Wijeratne said President Ranasinghe Premadasa will decide on Thursday regarding the cease-fire. Presidential Advisor on International Relations Bradman Weerakoon said President Premadasa would review the situation after meeting political leaders on Thursday and make a final determination concerning the cease-fire.

Commissioner General of Essential Services Charitha Ratwatte said the food lines to the north and east had been somewhat hampered due to the heavy rains, but food was now moving by land and sea.

When a foreign correspondent referred to an SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] MP [member of Parliament] as having said the current cease-fire with the LTTE was a "death wish", Mr. Wijeratne quipped amidst laughter "they must be dead crazy". [passage omitted]